

From the Fathers (and others):

They're silent out of indifference...In these difficult days each must do what's in their power. And leave what's out of their power to the will of God. In this way our conscience will be clear.

St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

"The soul should be provided with the word of God. For the word of God, as Gregory the Theologian says, 'is the bread of angels, which feeds the soul that is hungry for God. But, above all, one should read the New Testament and the Psalter. From this proceeds illumination of the mind...' –

St. Seraphim of Sarov

"It seems as though every tree endeavours each year to advance by the strength that God has given it; therefore, say to yourself, " I, too, must each day, each year, absolutely grow higher and higher morally, better and better, more and more perfect; must advance on the road to the Kingdom of Heaven, or to the Father which is in Heaven, through the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Spirit dwelling and working within me. As the field is adorned by a multitude of flowers, so should the field of my own soul be adorned by all the flowers of virtue..."

St. John of Kronstadt

"All the stars in the heavens could be more easily counted than all the miracles worked on earth by prayer." –

St. Nicholai of Zica

Whoever gives a hand to help his neighbor is helped by God's own hand.

St Isaac the Syrian

Cheerfulness consists in not regarding things as our own, but as entrusted to us by God for the benefit of our fellow servants. It consists in scattering them abroad generously with joy and magnanimity, not reluctantly or under compulsion.

St Symeon the New Theologian

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ January 8, 2017 ~
Sunday after Theophany*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
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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 8, 2017 Sunday after Theophany

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Sarah Hodges**.

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. 8-15 (Wed. & Fri. Fast)

- Sunday** - Teen Group, 5:00 p.m., Revelation Celebration
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m., Corinne Elliott's home
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m., Introduction to the Orthodox Church
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
- Parish Meal following
- NO Wednesday Teaching
-Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday** - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m.
- Friday** - 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 15, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	Jack Turner	USHER:	Bill Harter
HOLY BREAD:			
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Eli, Thomas, Paul, James		
COFFEE HOUR:	Anna Pashchinskaya, Kate Kumar		

Memorial Today

Dorothy McWhorter, 40 days

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

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



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 8 - 15

Sunday	Ephesians	4:7-13	Matthew	4:12-17
Monday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	Mark	1:9-15
Tuesday	Ephesians	4:7-13	Luke	3:19-22
Wednesday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Matthew	11:27-30
Thursday	Hebrews	10:35-11:7	John	10:39-42
Friday	Hebrews	11:8-16	Luke	20:1-8
Saturday	Ephesians	6:10-17	Matthew	4:1-11
Sunday	Colossians	3:4-11	Luke	17:12-19



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



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

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.

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. Beginning in January, there will be no teaching on the Wednesdays that Parish Council meets.

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.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 1/8:** Giuliana Yzaguirre, Miriam Knight
- Wednesday, 1/11:** Aleksandra Klimkowski, Lori O'Brien, Tim Elliott
Anniversary: John & Elizabeth Cameron
- Saturday, 1/14:** Manar Shleweet, Isabelle Mansour

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – WORK WILL BE STARTING THIS WEEK!!!! The contractor will be installing an orange fence around the duplex and demolition will begin. Please, be sure to stay off of the construction site! Please, keep this important 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!

Women of St. John ~ AWSJ

January 9 ~AWSJ Book Club will resume in the new year with a discussion of *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith. 7:00 p.m. at Corinne Elliott's home.

January 12 ~Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home.

teen group

TODAY: TEEN GROUP, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Revelation Celebration

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's box in the office or email them to him by January 13th. If you need a form, they can be found on the desk at the entrance to the fellowship hall.

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.

Vienna sausages
Snack crackers
Saltines
Canned pasta

Peanut butter
Canned meat
Granola bars
Canned vegetables

Soup
Fruit cups
Chili



Library Lines

Tuesday 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.

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.

St. Nina (1/14) is known as Equal-to-the-Apostles and the Enlightener of Georgia. She was born in the third century and was raised in the Faith. Her guardian told her that Christ's robe, woven by the Theotokos, was kept in Georgia, then a country of pagans. In a dream, The Mother of God appeared to her with a grapevine in her hands and promised to take her there. She awoke to find a cross made of a grapevine in her own hands. She traveled throughout the whole country gaining the love of the people and making converts. Read what Charli Phillips Riggle, one of our former parishioners, wrote about her in a column in *The Handmaiden*, spring 1996, p. 31. Want more? Check out *The Life of St. Nina, Equal to the Apostles* (KID STS NIN) and *St. Nina, Equal to the Apostles, Enlightener of Georgia* (HAG NIN OL).