

From the Fathers (and others):

No one has yet discovered or ever shall discover what God is in His nature and essence... we shall, in time to come, 'know as we are known' (I Cor 13:12). But for the present what reaches us is a scant emanation, as it were a small beam from a great light - which means that any one who 'knew' God or whose 'knowledge' of Him has been attested to in the Bible, has a manifestly more brilliant knowledge than others not equally illuminated. This superiority was reckoned knowledge in the full sense, not because it really was so, but by the contrast of relative strengths.
~St. Gregory Nazianzus

At the beginning of the struggle the holy commandments of God must be fulfilled with a certain forcefulness of will (cf. Mt. 11:12); then the Lord, seeing our intention and labour, will grant us readiness of will and gladness in obeying His purposes. For 'it is the Lord who makes ready the will' (Prov. 8:35 LXX), so that we always do what is right joyfully. Then shall we truly feel that 'it is God who energizes in you both the willing and the doing of His purpose' (Phil. 2:13).
~St. Diadochos of Photiki

A long time ago at a monastery the treasurer behaved severely with the monks. So great was his parsimony that they nicknamed him "the rope." When this man died, they tried to find gold among his belongings, but they didn't find anything. At his burial, the mule carers, who carried the wood from the mountain to the wharf, were crying and sobbing because he had helped them a lot. Taking into account the family each one of them had to feed, this man bought and gave them one, two or three mules each.

~St Paisios

Prayer is spiritual breathing; when we pray we breathe in the Holy Spirit; "praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jd. 1:20). Thus, all church prayers are the breathing of the Holy Spirit; as it were spiritual air and also light, spiritual fire, spiritual food and spiritual raiment.

~St. John of Kronstadt

When a man's intellect is constantly with God, his desire grows beyond all measure into an intense longing for God and his incensiveness is completely transformed into divine love. For by continual participation in the divine radiance his intellect becomes totally filled with light; and when it has reintegrated its passible aspect, it redirects this aspect towards God, filling it with an incomprehensible and intense longing for Him and with unceasing love, thus drawing it entirely away from worldly things to the divine.

~St. Maximos the Confessor

St. John Orthodox Church



~ October 15, 2017 ~
Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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

October 15, 2017 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Jamie White**.

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

October 15 - 22 (Wed & Fri Fast)

- Sunday** -Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
-Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-"Orthodoxy & Evangelism" at St. George in Bartlett, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m.
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., Orthodox Eschatology – Death and End Times
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Wednesday meal, 5:30 p.m.
-Wednesday teaching and CGS, 6:15 p.m., "What is the Church"
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Chanters Workshop, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
-AWSJ Fall Social, following Vespers, Mindy Williams' home
- Sunday** -**Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

DIVINE LITURGY

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

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	Jack Turner	USHER:	Thomas Yadron
HOLY BREAD:	Sarah Hodges		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Pavel, Max, Brody, Paul, volunteer		
COFFEE HOUR:	Judy and Trent Terry, Stephanie Harants		

UPCOMING MEMORIALS – OCTOBER 28

Margaret Layman, 5 years
Kitty Gilliland, 15 years
Helen Lutrell – 10 years

COMMEMORATIONS

Oct. 15: Hieromartyr Lucian of Antioch; Venerable Euthymios the Younger of Athos; Savvinos, bishop of Catania; Venerable Varsos.

Oct. 16: Martyr Longinos the centurion who stood at the cross of the Lord; Gall, enlightener of Switzerland.

Oct. 17: Prophet Hosea; Venerable-martyr Andrew of Crete.

Oct. 18: Apostle Luke the Evangelist; Martyr Marinus the Elder at Anazarbos; Venerable Theodore and Simeon; New-martyr Gabriel of Egypt; Peter of Cetinje.

Oct. 19: Prophet Joel; Martyr Varos; Mnason, Bishop of Cyprus; Venerable John of Rila and Prochoros of Pchinja.

Oct. 20: Great-martyr Artemios at Antioch; Gerasimos the New Ascetic of Kephallenia; Venerable Matrona of Chios.

Oct. 21: Venerable Hilarion the Great; Venerable Christodoulos of Patmos; Hieromartyr Soctrates; Martyr Theodota; Venerable Philotheos, Barnabas and Hilarion, bishop of Meglin in Bulgaria; New-martyr John of Monemvasia; Venerable-confessors Vissarion and Sophroios of Ciorara and Martyr Oprea of Salistie in Romania.

Oct. 22: Averkios the wonder-worker, equal-to-the-Apostles and bishop of Hierapolis; Seven youths (“Seven Sleepers”) martyred in Ephesos; Bishop Eulalios.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 15 - 22

Sunday	Titus	3:8-15	Luke	8:5-15
Monday	Philippians	2:12-15	Matt	27:33-54
Tuesday	Romans	9:18-33	Luke	9:23-27
Wednesday	Colossians	4:5-11, 14-18	Luke	10:16-21
Thursday	Acts	2:14-21	Luke	9:49-56
Friday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	Luke	7:1-10
Saturday	2 Corinthians	9:6-11	Luke	7:1-10
Sunday	Galatians	1:11-19	Luke	8:26-39



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis –Justin Bowles, Lucas Whatley, Tom Ashworth, Allie Helms, Jon Mark and Heather Hetrick, Ian Curry, John Curry, Jamie Escue, Marissa Kizer and 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), 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), Maria Bellaflores, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Sons of Thunder will meet tonight, Oct. 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hodges home. We will be discussing four books: Animal Farm, Brave New World, Nineteen Eighty-Four, and Fahrenheit 451. Read one or more.

Men’s Quarterly Dinner – Our next dinner together is scheduled for **Thursday, October 26**, at Central BBQ on Summer at 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy this time of food and fellowship!

“Orthodoxy and Evangelism” – Fr. Chad Hatfield will be speaking on “Orthodoxy & Evangelism” at St. George (formerly St. Seraphim) in Bartlett on October 16. Vespers will be prayed at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. with Fr. Chad’s talk beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening – We will continue with our new schedule this week. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by teaching at 6:15 p.m., and ending with Small Compline at 7:00 p.m.

-Parents of Catechesis children – the catechists will bring the children downstairs to the nave from the atria before Small Compline just as they do on Sunday mornings. If you are not planning on staying for Compline, please wait at the bottom of the stairs outside of the nave for your child. Please do not ask your child to meet you anywhere else.

Parents Night Out – The teens will host their annual parents’ night out on Sunday, October 22, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Young Adults – There will be a young adult trip to St. Paul Skete on Saturday, October 28.

Nursery books – We would like to replenish/replace some of the books that are kept in the nursery. If your family would like to donate 1-2 gently used [durable] books that you have outgrown, it would be appreciated! There will be a box labeled in the old parish hall for you to leave them.

Pledge letter. Our annual pledge letter went out this week. In order to help us with the budget, please do return your pledge cards. May God bless you as you work to be a good steward of the resources the Lord has blessed you with!!

Room in the Inn - 2017 is Trinity's 5th year of participation and St. John's 4th year of participation. Volunteers are needed Tuesday nights and Wednesday mornings beginning November for set up, greeting, the clothes closet, serving, overnights, and clean up on Wednesday morning. Usually an hour sign up is sufficient, because many hands make light work. Please see Sarah Hodges or Monica Rustom for more information.

Master Plan Updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – We might be done with St. Raphael Hall, but the work continues in our building!! The crew has continued to renovate the old kitchen as they turn it into the choir room. Soon, we will be moving the library into the old fellowship space and moving Fr. Alex’s office into the library space. Lord willing, all of this will help us to continue to use our space well. Thank you for your patience as we continue to sort through the clutter and the chaos! Thank God for having this type of renovation chaos!!

Fund raising – We are almost done with the project and beginning to look at our final price tag for the building. We will be looking at roughly \$825,000 on our mortgage from a project that cost around \$1.5 million. Thank God for His many blessings!! If you would like to help with our monthly commitment to the loan, please let Fr. Philip know.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Monday, 10/16: Stephen Sanderlin
Anniversary: Ethan & Claire van Drimmelen

Wednesday, 10/18: *Luke, the Evangelist: Luke Heisig*

Thursday, 10/19: *St. John of Kronstadt: John Cameron*
Prophet Joel: Joel Finley

Saturday, 10/21: Nancy Ingram, Judy Terry

New Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:30 p.m. Parish Meal

6:15 p.m. Teaching

- Adults – parish hall – October 18, “What is the Church?”
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – open to existing atria children in both levels
- Youth - tbd

7:00 p.m. Small Compline

Women of St. John Calendar

Oct. 21 **AWSJ Fall Social** – hosted by Mindy Williams, following Vespers. Come and celebrate the new AWSJ calendar year! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share

Nov. 6 **AWSJ Book Club** - *Tangles and Plaques* by Kh. Susan Cushman on Sarah Hodges porch, 7:00 p.m. Kh. Susan will be at the meeting to discuss her book with us!

Nov. 9 **Women’s Teaching**, 10:00 a.m.
Secret Sister Reveal Potluck, 6:30 p.m. at Corinne’s home. All are invited whether or not you participated in Secret Sisters.

Library Lines

Which Ecumenical Council do we honor today??? Hint: It’s the one that many would say defines the Orthodox Church in the world’s eyes. Also, it’s the one we honor on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. In 787, the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (1st Sunday after 10/11) decreed that the icons were not idols and veneration of them was honorable. Thank God for these holy men. See the stories of the Councils in *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils, A Noble Task, Foundations of Social Order*, and *The Ecumenical Synods of the Orthodox Church*.

Several of the saints actively opposed Christianity before their conversion. Monday we honor St. Longinus (10/16), the centurion who stood at the foot of the Cross. Tradition says that he was cured of an eye ailment when water and blood poured out of the wound inflicted by him in Christ’s side. He was later baptized by the Apostles and martyred by Pilate.

Once again, we commemorate the translation of a saint’s relics. This time it’s for the Righteous Lazarus (10/17). He lived thirty years after Christ called him forth from the tomb and his relics were discovered in a marble coffin inscribed with the words, “Lazarus of the four days, the friend of Christ.” They were transferred to Byzantium around the year 900. Read more about Christ raising him in *The Resurrection and the Icon* (ART ICO QUE).

The Prophet Hosea (10/17) lived in the 9th century B.C. and was a contemporary of the Prophets Isaiah, Micah and Amos. Besides warning the Jews of their captivity by the Assyrians unless they repented of their sins, he foretold the end of sacrifices and the priesthood as they knew it. He also prophesied Christ’s resurrection and triumph over death.

St. Luke (10/18) is a well-known and much-loved apostle. He shows us the Beauty of our Church in words and in images. However, few may realize that he was one of the Seventy. He wrote two books of the Bible, accompanied St. Paul on his journeys, and painted the first icons of the Mother of God. St. John Library owns five books on his works: *Commentary of the Gospel of Luke* (REF PAT CYR), *Exposition of the Holy Gospel According to St. Luke* (PAT AMB), *Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to St. Luke* (REF PAT THE), *Acts* (SCR COM CRO), and *Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles* (REF PAT BED). See *Meet the Evangelists* (KID STS KHO), *The Lives of the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - - - HOL) and *Notes on the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - - - MAS) for details about his life.

Who is a constant source of comfort when our non-Orthodox relatives die? St. Varus (10/19) is much loved and prayed-to saint in our parish. He was a Roman soldier in Egypt and a secret Christian. He joined a band of martyrs being encouraged by them, much like the 40 martyrs of Sebaste. His relics were rescued by a pious widow, and St. Varus appeared to her at her son’s death. He is a saint who intercedes for the souls of our relatives outside the Church.