

From the Fathers (and others):

Our future reward is made manifest through the impulses of the heart. A merciful heart will receive mercy, while a merciless heart will receive the opposite.

St. Mark the Ascetic

It is better to be persecuted than to persecute; it is better to be crucified than to crucify; it is better to be insulted than to insult; it is better to be slandered than to slander.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

The recovery of spiritual sight and the healing of physical blindness have much in common. Some of those whose bodily eyes were blind received their sight at once, like the man who heard and immediately saw and was healed (Lk. 18:35-43). Others recovered their sight gradually, as in the case of the man, who, before he was completely cured, said, "I see men as trees, walking" (Mk. 8:22-26). It is the same with those whose spiritual eyes are healed. Whereas some recover instantly, others are healed in stages.

St. Gregory Palamas

When your life is according to God, do not be saddened over afflictions and your ferocious passions, for God will take them from you one fine day. Neither fear death, because God has prepared future goodness in order to make you higher than death.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

... courage shatters enemies attacking the soul from without, mercy those attacking it from within.

St. Gregory of Sinai

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ October 2, 2016 ~
15th Sunday after Pentecost*

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 2, 2016

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Reem Mansour**.

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

Oct. 2 - 9 (Wed. & Fri. Fast)

- Sunday** - Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, Campbell/Vanlandingham, 4:00 p.m.
- 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., Barksdale's
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., Baptism & Chrismation
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., Parish Meal following
-Wednesday Teaching, 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.
- Paraklesis, 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -**Orthros, 8:45 a.m.**
-**Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, October 9, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Basil	HOMILY:	Fr. Basil
READER:	John Cameron	USHER:	Thomas Yadron
HOLY BREAD:	Caitlyn Maas		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Trent, Max, Eli, Nicholas, Thomas		
COFFEE HOUR:	Sh. Corinne, Justin Bowles, Matt & Lynda Spinolo		

Churching

Christina Moore and Luna Marie will be churching this morning
between Orthros and Divine Liturgy.

Memorials

October 9:

Matushka Sissy Yerger, 1 year;
Urania Alissandratos, 9 years

COMMEMORATIONS

Oct. 2: Hieromartyr Cyprian the confessor; Virgin-martyr Justina; Venerable Theophilos; New-martyr George; Blessed Andrew, fool-for-Christ; David and Constantine, prince-martyrs of Georgia; Anna, princess of Kashin.

Oct. 3: Hieromartyr Dionysios the Areopagite, first bishop of Athens; Martyrs Eleutherios and Rustikos.

Oct. 4: Hieromartyr Hierotheos, bishop of Athens; Apostle Krispos of the Seventy; Martyrs Domina and her daughters of Syria; uncovering of the relics of Gurios, first archbishop of Kazan; Barsanouphios, bishop of Tver; Stephen (Stiljanovich) and Elizabeth.

Oct. 5: Martyr Charitina; John, bishop of Euchaita; Venerable Eudokimos of Vatopedi monastery on Athos; uncovering of the relics of the wonder-workers Peter, Alexis, Jonah, Philip and Hermogenes, metropolitans of Moscow.

Oct. 6: Apostle Thomas; Venerable Kendea; Venerable-martyr Makarios of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Innocent, metropolitan of Moscow, enlightener of the Aleuts and apostle to America.

Oct. 7: Martyrs Sergios and Bacchos in Syria; Hieromartyr Polykronios; Priest Julian; Venerable John the Hermit and those with him; Venerable Sergios of Nurma.

Oct. 8: Venerable Pelagia the penitent; Virgin-martyr Pelagia of Antioch; Martyr Taisia of Egypt; Hieromartyr Artemon; Venerable-martyr Ignatios of Prodromou Skete on Athos; Venerable Philotheos, patriarch of Constantinople; Martyr Ignatios of Bulgaria.

Oct. 9: Apostle James, son of Alpheos; Venerable Andronikos and Athanasia of Egypt; Venerable Poplia the confessor of Antioch; Righteous Forefather Abraham and his nephew the Righteous Lot; Stephen the Younger, king of Serbia; Dionysios, bishop of Paris.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Wednesday Teaching. This week, Fr. Philip will be wrapping up the discussion on the Orthodox approach to death and dying. Starting next Wednesday, Fr. Alex will be giving lessons on Orthodox music, both Byzantine and Slavic customs. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the history of our tradition!

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Take a look at the bulletin boards in the parish hall to get a glimpse of what we do in the atrium! There are many ways in which you can help us as our atrium grows. There is a list of items and projects we need assistance with on the bulletin boards for those who are interested. Please continue to pray for us!

Parish Pictures for the bulletin board – It has been some time since we last took parish pictures for the bulletin board downstairs. The bulletin board provides an easy way for newcomers to put faces with names. We have had many marriages, babies and new families since 2010! Trent Terry will be taking pictures each Sunday in October beginning next Sunday, October 9. Please sign up downstairs or on Sign Up Genius for the day that is most convenient for you and your family.

The Library - One great ministry of the Church is the library! Thank you for using it! If you have a book checked out of the library, they are able to be out for one month. Please help us maintain our offerings by being prompt in returning the books. Thank you for your attention and use of the parish library! If you have additional questions about the library, please see Mrs. Judy Terry.

Quarterly Sign Up Sheets – The coffee hour **and** Wednesday Night meal pickup sign up sheets for 4th Quarter are now available online and downstairs in the parish hall. These are both wonderful ways to serve your parish. Please call the office if you have any questions!

Men's Book Club, Sons of Thunder will be meeting at 6:30 on Sunday, October 9th at Fr. Philip's house. They will be discussing *God Is Not Great* by Christopher Hitchens. All men are welcome.

Worship and Liturgical Reminders

Just a reminder, following the Divine Liturgy we pray the Thanksgiving prayers. Remember to **wait to have conversations until after you have exited the knave**. Thank you for your help in allowing these prayers to be read without too much distraction.

teen group

TODAY: No Teen Group

NEXT WEEK, October 8 (SATURDAY): Apple Picking, 1:00 p.m., meet at St. John

COMING UP: Lock-In, November 18-19 – More information to come!

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**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**October 2-9**

|           |               |          |      |          |
|-----------|---------------|----------|------|----------|
| Sunday    | 2 Corinthians | 4:6-15   | Luke | 6:31-36  |
| Monday    | Acts          | 4:12-19  | Luke | 6:24-30  |
| Tuesday   | Galatians     | 2:21-3:7 | Luke | 6:37-45  |
| Wednesday | Galatians     | 4:6-15   | Luke | 6:46-7:1 |
| Thursday  | 1 Corinthians | 3:23-4:5 | John | 20:19-31 |
| Friday    | Hebrews       | 16:13-24 | Luke | 7:31-35  |
| Saturday  | 1 Corinthians | 9:10-19  | Luke | 5:27-32  |
| Sunday    | 2 Corinthians | 4:6-15   | Luke | 7:11-16  |

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Pray for our catechumens: Memphis - Ben Arthur; Marshall & Kathryn McWhorter.

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), Janna Knight (pregnant), 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), Elfrieda Drobashevsky, Maria Bellaflores, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Tuesday, 10/4:** Fran Tylavsky, Regina Fahhoun, Beth Autrey
Wednesday, 10/5: Cailyn Ratliff, Lawson Bowick, Patty Harants, Madeleine Boiles
Thursday, 10/6: Fr. Basil
St. Innocent: Dn. Sidney, Gavin van Drimmelen, Don Sanderlin
Apostle Thomas: Thomas Cameron, Thomas Yadron
Friday, 10/7: Keith Harlow
Saturday, 10/8: Mary Ann Coccaro, Gabriel Martin

Women of St. John ~ AWSJ

- Oct. 3** **Book Club**, 7:00 p.m., *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Frye* by Rachel Joyce
Oct. 6 **Women's Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela's home
Oct. 22 **Baby Shower for Christina Moore**, 11:00 a.m.
Oct. 29 **Fall Fest and Chili Cook Off**
Nov. 3 **Secret Sister Reveal Potluck** – All are invited! 6:30 p.m. at Corinne Elliott's home.
Nov. 11-12 **AWSJ Retreat** – Our speaker will be Dr. Nicole Rocca, author of *Time and Despondency*, and best known for her blog and podcast, "Time Eternal."

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – Our kitchen committee had a productive meeting this week. Once all of the suggestions are to the architect, we will be moving towards our final plans. The architect is also working with the city about our alleyway and continuing to work through the solutions to the grading.

Fund raising – Thank you for your continued support! If you would like to make any additional contributions to the master plan, feel free!!

LIBRARY LINES

Sts. Cyprian and Justina (10/2) endured spells and powerful black magic. Cyprian was a sorcerer and used his power to help a young, pagan man to court the pious Justina. She rebuffed him, and Cyprian turned the suitor into a large, black bird so he could fly into her room. Next, he conjured up demons to trick her. St. Cyprian saw the futility of his tricks, repented and struggled to live a life of virtue. They were both eventually martyred and are intercessors for the faithful against the powers of darkness. See their stories in *A Child's Paradise of Saints* (KID/MCL).

Monday we commemorate St. Dionysius the Areopagite (10/3), a scholar who first knew of Christ in Athens by seeing the sun darkened from His death at the Crucifixion. He became a Christian and traveled with St. Paul for three years. He was also blessed to be present at the Dormition of the Theotokos in 57 A.D. Only some of his letters and four of his books are known to us today: *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, *On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy*, *On the Names of God*, and *On Mystical Theology*. The OCA website tells us that, according to the saint, the first two tell us that the ranks of angels and humanity exist in a "spiritual light-bearing hierarchy." *On the Names of God* tells us of knowledge of God through a progression of Divine Names. *On Mystical Theology* shows us the theology of our Faith comes to us through "experience of divine knowledge" by drawing close to God with a pure heart in pure prayer. Read these books and more about his life in *Pseudo-Dionysius: the Complete Works* (PAT DIO LUI).

Thursday we honor St. Thomas (10/6) who is remembered by the world as a doubter. Sometimes even we forget that after Jesus was threatened in Judea and he then asked his disciples to accompany Him there to raise Lazarus, St. Thomas said, "Then let us also go that we may die with Him." The Church praises Thomas for his honest doubt after the Resurrection because it led to a life driven by belief. St. John Chrysostom, in comparing him to the other apostles, says he "toiled through the grace of God more... zealously than them all as he ended up preaching in most of the known earth." He was martyred in India. Read more about him in *Orthodox Saints* (HAG - - - POU), October-December, in *Stories of Saints from the Prologue* (KID STS MAN), *The Disciples of Christ*, (KID STS SPR) and in *The Lives of the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - - - HOL).

St. Innocent (1797-1879) is known as an Apostle to the Americas. He was born in one of the largest cities in Siberia. He labored for 45 years working in severe weather and harsh conditions in Alaska. His efforts in composing an alphabet and grammar for the Aleut language and in studying the geography of his new homeland were instrumental in his baptizing thousands of people and building numerous churches and schools. Read more about him in *From Earth to Heaven* (HAG INN WER). His most famous book, which is in our library and bookstore, was *The Indication of the Way in to Kingdom of Heaven* (PAT INN). He is commemorated on the day of his repose (3/31) and the day of his glorification (10/6).

Pelegia the Penitent (10/8), 5th century, was a member of a dance troop and lived a life of prostitution. She was converted by St. Nonnus when she heard him preaching on the Last Judgment. She came to him weeping tears of repentance, and he baptized her. A demon tempted her to return to her former life but she made the sign of the cross and he vanished. She gave her wealth to St. Nonnus to distribute to the poor and lived, disguised as a monk, in asceticism until her death in the fifth century. See her story in chapter 4, "Pelegia; Beauty Riding By" in *Harlots of the Desert* (HAG - - - WAR) and in *The Desert Fathers*, p. 173 (PAT - - - WAD).