From the Fathers (and others):
An old man was asked, “What is humility?” and he said in reply, “Humility is a great work, and a work of God. The way of humility is to undertake bodily labor and believe yourself a sinner and make yourself subject to all.” Then a brother said, “What does it mean, to be subject to all?” The old man answered, “To be subject to all is not to give your attention to the sins of others but always to give your attention to your own sins and to pray without ceasing to God.”

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

“It is no great thing not to judge, and to be sympathetic to someone who is in trouble and falls down before you, but it is a great thing not to judge or to strike back when someone, on account of his own passions, speaks against you. Likewise, it is a great thing not to disagree when someone else is honored more than you are.”

St. Dorotheos of Gaza

“You will be able to check envy if you rejoice with the man whom you envy whenever he rejoices, and grieve whenever he grieves.”

St. Maximos the Confessor

As Abba Macarius was returning to his cell from the marsh carrying palm-leaves, the devil met him with a sharp sickle and would have struck him but he could not. He cried out, “Great is the violence I suffer from you, Macarius, for when I want to hurt you, I cannot. But whatever you do, I do and more also. You fast now and then, but I am never refreshed by any food; you often keep vigil, but I never fall asleep. Only in one thing are you better than I am and I acknowledge that.” Macarius said to him, “What is that?” and he replied, “It is because of your humility alone that I cannot overcome you.”

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

“The humble person does not criticize anyone except himself, because he knows that he does not have any appointment to judge and censure others.”

Father Philotheos Zervakos
October 6, 2013

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Commemoration of the Apostle Thomas

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Margaret McKelroy.

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 6 - 10:00 a.m.

- Life Chain, 2:00 p.m., see Prolife Corner for details
- Teen Group, Greenline Bike Ride, 4:00 p.m.

Monday - First Hour, 6:45 a.m.

Tuesday - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m.
- Choir, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Great Vespers for St. John, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday meal to follow
- Wednesday Teaching, 7:00 p.m.
- Parish Council Meeting, 7:45 p.m.

Thursday - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- AWSJ Women’s Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Trezevant Manor

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 - Revised & Church School, 9:00 a.m.
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, October 13, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Nikolai
HOMILY: Fr. Nikolai

DEACONS: Dn. James
READER: Bill Harter

HOLY BREAD: Reem Mansour
usher: Bill Harter

ALTAR SERVERS: Jake, Trent, James

COFFEE HOUR: Nawar & Reem Mansour, Corinne Elliott, Nate & Ashley Powell

WELCOME TEAM: David Twombly and Clifford McWhorter

Memorial Today

October 6 - Urania Alissandratos, 6 years

Upcoming Memorials

October 27 - Helen Luttrell, 16 years
November 3 - Margaret Layman, 1 year
COMMEMORATIONS

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

Oct. 7: Martyrs Sergioi and Bacchos in Syria; Hieromartyr Polykhrionios; Priest Julian; Venerable John the Hermit and those with him; Venerable Sergioi 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.

Oct. 10: Martyrs Eulampios and Eulamia at Nicomedia; Venerable Theophilos the confessor of Bulgaria; Venerable Ambrose of Optina.

Oct. 11: Apostle Philip, the deacon, of the Seventy; Venerable Theophanes the branded; Nektarios, Arsakios, Philotheos and Sisinos, patriarchs of Constantinople; Venerable Jonah.

Oct. 12: Martyrs Probas, Andronikos and Tarachos at Tarsus; Cosmas the hymnographer, bishop of Miaiuma.

Oct. 13: Martyrs Karpas, Papylos, Agathodoros, and Agathonika at Pergamos; Martyr Benjamin the deacon; Martyr Florentios of Thesalonika; New Virgin Martyrs Karpos, Papylos, Agathodoros, and Agathonika at Pergamos; Martyr Ignatios of Bulgaria.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 6 – October 13

Wednesday Galatians 6:2-10 Luke 8:22-25
Friday Ephesians 1:7-17 Luke 9:12-18
Sunday 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 Luke 8:5-15

Pray for our catechumens: Memphis - Ben Arthur, Caitlin Romero, Richard McKeal, Maria Brackey, Lisa Martin, Michael Hill; Tupelo - Shane Davis, Janet Berry, Jackson – Christopher & Bria Pittman (Manny); Henning – John Kearney, Alon Hanks, Randolph.

Please remember in your prayers: His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP, His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN, Dn. Innocent, Kh. Susan, Judi Smith (Julie Sanderlin’s mother), Shirley Gore (Judy Terry’s mother), Efffie Johnson (Kh. Susan’s mother), Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Sue Ingram, Charles Ingram, Ted Greathouse (Shelley Snowden’s father), Allen Suduth (Paul’s father), Janet Berry, Lydia Banicessu (Tupelo), Betty Wells (Karen Wells’ mother), Jill Healy, Nicholas Hill, Mary Sue Johnson (Jason Guntarpe’s grandmother), Megan Mayo (Jill Healy’s daughter), Melissa White (pregnant), Sarah Finley (pregnant), Caitlin Romero (pregnant), Claire van Drimmelen (pregnant), Taya Mashburn (pregnant), Janan Heising, Laura Graham, Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), Brenda Thomas, Doris & Jim (Brenda Thomas’ family), Sandy O’Brien (Dan O’Brien’s mother), Karen Wells, Kera White, Collin Mayo (Jill Healy’s grandson, Erin Williams (Jill Healy’s daughter), those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

ST. JOHN COMMUNITY

Catechumen/Inquirers Class will meet Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Out of Town Dates for Fr. John - Fr. John will be out of the office October 11-22. Fr. Nikolai will be available in his absence.

Another alms opportunity – One of our security guards, John Troup, has a daughter, Danielle, who has suffered from Transverse Myelitis from about her ninth month. She graduated from high school this last May, and is now attending Southwest Tennessee Community College here in Memphis. Her family is trying to raise money for a reliable used wheelchair accessible minivan. If you are interested in helping, you can go to http://www.gofundme.com/3snars to make a donation. More details are on the community bulletin board.

Father Troy

Women’s Book Club – The AWSJ Book Club will meet on Monday evening, October 14th at 7:00 p.m. on Sarah Hodges’ front porch. We will be discussing Touching Heaven, a book written by, Fr. John Oliver from St. Elizabeth in Murfreesboro, TN, the speaker for our upcoming AWSJ Women’s Retreat. Sarah reports that the book is an easy read, yet rich in content and excellent retreat prep. Come enjoy some “porch time” with us!

Annual St. John Fall Fest and Chili Cookoff – October 26 following Vespers at 5:00 p.m. Details to follow – Please contact Elizabeth Cameron if you would like to assist!

Prison Ministry - If you would like to be involved in prison ministry without having to visit the prison, there are several ways you can help. Please contact Fr. Nikolai if you are interested, frnmeyers@gmail.com.

Saint Katherine College will be hosting Preview Days on November 1-2. It’s a great chance for the teens to see what it’s like to be a student at the college. Additionally, there will be a fun event run by Saint Katherine College students.

On Friday, high school students can come attend classes and ask questions of a panel of current students. Then, Friday evening will be the fun, student led event. Invite your whole youth group to come, bring guitars and musical instruments, and enjoy time together! That night, those who wish to can spend the night in the dorms with current students.

Then, on Saturday, attendees will learn more about student life and have the chance to take a tour of the campus. They will also learn more about programs they are interested in, such as athletics or music. There will be sessions for both students and parents. It’s a great time to meet professors and current students and ask them questions.

This is a great chance for teens to experience the only Orthodox College on the West Coast. It is a chance to have fellowship with one another while also hearing lectures and learning from amazing Orthodox professors.

To RSVP, please email me at kbraun@stkath.org, or call (760)943-1107.
Prolife Corner:
Life Chain in Memphis – Again, this Sunday, we can participate in Life Chain, a proactive and firm, yet quiet and peaceful, expression of our support for unborn children in the womb. Come and join us between 2:00 and 3:00 on the north side of Union Avenue just east of Cleveland, up to and past the Cupboard Restaurant, as he pray and hold signs in support of the unborn.

Wednesday Night at St. John
Meal: Jerusalem Market
$4 adults, $2 children
Teaching: Fr. Nikolai will continue on Spiritual Awakening

Antiochian Women of St. John
October 10 ~ Women’s Teaching, 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the 3rd floor parlor at Allen Morgan Rehab in Trezevant Manor- We will continue our study of Precious Vessels of the Holy Spirit. Please join us!

October 14 ~ AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m. ~ We will meet on Sarah Hodgess’ porch to discuss Fr. John Oliver’s book, Touching Heaven

October 20 ~ Women’s Business Meeting, please make every effort to attend

October 27 ~ Baby Shower for Caitlin Romero following Coffee Hour at Kh. Pamela’s home. Please contact Claire van Drimmelen if you would like to assist with the shower.

November 4 ~ Secret Sister Reveal Potluck, 6:30 p.m. at Corinne Elliott’s home

November 8-9 ~ AWSJ Women’s Retreat ~ Fr. John Oliver will be our speaker this year on the topic of Our Dark Emotions in the Light of Christ. – Registration online at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0948AAAC23A75-awsj

ALMS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Library Lines

Today 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 MAN), and in The Lives of the Holy Apostles (REF HAG - - - HOL).

St. Innocent 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 to the 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) 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).

Wednesday, we remember the Righteous Abraham and his nephew Lot (10/9). God told him he would be the father of multitudes, and we even refer to God in some of our prayers, including ones in the funeral service and the Lenten Prayer of Manasseh, as “the God of our fathers, God of Abraham, Isaac and their righteous seed.”

Frequently we hear of saints referred to as Elder. This practice goes beyond receiving advice from a priest to that of obedience to a pious, experienced holy man. It began in the deserts and was brought to Optina Monastery in Russia by St. Leonid (10/11). He gleaned his wisdom through a disciple of St. Paisius Velichkovsky. Read his story in The Orthodox Word # 117 Jul-Aug 1984 pp. 148/156, # 122 May-Jun 1985 pp. 125/129, # 267 Jul-Aug 2009 pp. 157/199 and in Road to Ennauds # 44 winter 2011 p. 3. For more information look at Elder Leonid of Optina (HAG LEO SED) in the hagiography section in St. John Library.

Saturday we commemorate St. Cosmos the Hymnographer (10/12). He lived in the 8th century and was raised with St. John of Damascus. Together, they devised the system of the eight tones. He composed the Nativity Canon from which comes our Nativity greeting, “Christ is Born, Glorify Him.” See his story in Poets and Hymnographers of the Church (HAG - - - TAR).