

From the Fathers (and others):

When a man receives something Divine, in his heart he rejoices; but when he receives something diabolic, he is disturbed. The Christian heart, when it has received something Divine, does not demand anything else in order to convince it that this is precisely from the Lord; but by that very effect it is convinced that this is heavenly, for it senses within itself spiritual fruits: love, joy, peace, and the rest (cf. Gal. 5:22).

St. Seraphim of Sarov

When you are subjected to the malicious and furious violence of the passions, and to the harassments of the Devil, during the fulfillment of various works for God, accept these sufferings as sufferings for the name of Christ, and rejoice in your sufferings, thanking God; for the Devil is preparing you, without knowing it himself, the most shining crowns from the Lord.

St. John of Kronstadt

If you completely fulfill the command to love your neighbor, you will feel no bitterness or resentment against him whatever he does. If this is not the case, then the reason you fight against your brother is clearly that you seek after transitory things and prefer them to the commandment of love.

St. Maximos the Confessor

As long as I remain imperfect and refractory, neither obeying God by practicing the commandments nor becoming perfect in spiritual knowledge, Christ from my point of view also appears imperfect and refractory because of me. For I diminish and cripple Him by not growing in spirit with Him, since I am 'the body of Christ and one of its members' (I Cor. 12:27).

St. Maximos the Confessor

One day when we were walking beside the sea I was thirsty and I said to Abba Bessarion, 'Father, I am very thirsty.' He said a prayer and said to me, 'Drink some of the sea water.' The water proved sweet when I drank some. I even poured some into a leather bottle for fear of being thirsty later on. Seeing this, the old man asked me why I was taking some. I said to him, 'Forgive me, it is for fear of being thirsty later on.' Then the old man said, 'God is here. God is everywhere.'

Abba Doulas- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ October 8, 2017 ~
18th Sunday after Pentecost*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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www.orthodoxtupelo.com

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 8, 2017 **18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Stephanie Harants**.

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 8 - 15 (Wed & Fri Fast)

- Sunday** -Holy Matrimony of Michael Elliott and Sarah Koplin, 3:00 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-NO Wednesday Evening Activities
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -Orthros, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, October 15, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Alex
READER:	Rod Ratliff	USHER:	John Sneed &
HOLY BREAD:	Jamie White		Aaron White
ALTAR SERVERS:	James, Mark, Thomas, Alex, volunteer		
COFFEE HOUR:	Anna Pashchinskaya, Lavinia Dumitrache, Marissa Kizer		

TODAY:

Trisagion Prayers for the Repose of His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN
Urania Alissandratos, 10 years

CLERGY OUT OF OFFICE

The clergy will be out of the office through Wednesday of next week in order to attend
Bishop ANTOUN's funeral.

COMMEMORATIONS

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 Eulampia at Nicomedia; Venerable Theophilos the confessor of Bulgaria; Venerable Ambrose of Optina.

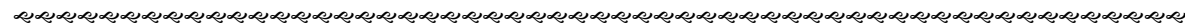
Oct. 11: Apostle Philip, the deacon, of the Seventy; Venerable Theophanes the branded; Nektarios, Arsakios, Philotheos and Sisinius, patriarchs of Constantinople; Venerable Jonah.

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

Oct. 13: Marytrs Karpos, Papylos, Agathodoros, and Agathonika at Pergamos; Martyr Benjamin the deacon; Martyr Florentios of Thesalonika; New Virgin-martyr Chrissa (Zlata) of Meglin in Bulgaria.

Oct. 14: Martyrs Nazarios, Gervase, Protase and Kelsos of Milan; Venerable Kosmas and Nicholas; Venerable Paraskeva of Epivat; Ignatios the wonder-worker, archbishop of Methymna; Venerable Nicholas Sviatosha, prince of Chernigov and wonder-worker of the Kiev Caves.

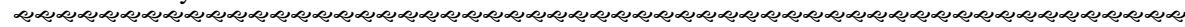
Oct. 15: Hieromartyr Lucian of Antioch; Venerable Euthymios the Younger of Athos; Savvinos, bishop of Catania; Venerable Varsos.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 8 - 15

Sunday	2 Corinthians	9:6-11	Luke	7:11-16
Monday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	Matt	9:36-38
Tuesday	Philippians	1:8-14	Luke	8:1-3
Wednesday	Acts	8:26-39	Luke	8:22-25
Thursday	Philippians	1:20-27	Luke	9:7-11
Friday	Philippians	1:27-30; 2:1-4	Luke	9:12-18
Saturday	1 Corinthians	15:58; 16:1-3	Luke	6:1-10
Sunday	Titus	3:8-15	Luke	8:5-15



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), 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



Wednesday Evening – Due to the priests’ travel schedule as they attend the funeral of Bishop ANTOUN, we will unfortunately not have any Wednesday evening activities this week. Please pray for all those traveling. Memory eternal, Bishop ANTOUN!

Funeral Arrangements – Arrangements for Bishop ANTOUN of thrice-blessed memory may be found on the Antiochian.org website.

Sons of Thunder will meet next on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 6:00PM 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.

Parking – It has come to our attention that there are those in the neighborhood who are upset that we currently use the green-space across the street from the church for parking. As we continue to attempt to be good neighbors, the parish council recently decided to ask the community to refrain from parking on that space. Our security guard will continue to use that location in order to have a good view of the majority of the property. However, we do ask that no one else park on that space. I am truly sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause. Thank you for your understanding!

“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.

Master Plan Updates

TODAY IS THE DAY!!!! Thanks be to God, we have reached the stage where we can actually use St Raphael Hall!! Please, be patient with our transition. Lord willing, so much of how we use the space will change organically as we become accustomed to it. There will be places where we might even wish we had done a bit differently. As Dn. Tim says, “Don’t let perfection be the enemy of GREAT!” This project has been a true blessing for our community. May St. Raphael continue to intercede so that it will continue to be for many years to come!!

Fund raising – Thank you for your help thus far!! We have begun drawing on the loan to complete the project. If you would like to help with our monthly commitment to the loan, please let Fr. Philip know.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 10/8:	Mary Ann Coccaro, Gabriel Martin
Tuesday, 10/10:	Dianna Hildebrand, Anna Mae Schroeder
Wednesday, 10/11:	<i>Apostle Philip: Philip McKelroy</i>
Thursday, 10/12:	Tyson Smith <i>Simeon, the New Theologian: Elinor Crenshaw</i>
Friday, 10/13:	Billy Labonte
Saturday, 10/14:	Michael Williams

New Wednesday Evening Schedule

- 5:30 p.m. Parish Meal
6:00 p.m. Teaching
- Adults – parish hall – October 11, “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 AWSJ Calendar

- Nov. 6** AWSJ Book Club will be discussing *Tangles and Plaques* by Kh. Susan Cushman, Kh. Pamela’s home
- Nov. 9** **Women’s Teaching**, 10:00 a.m.

SIGN UP!

Online sign-ups are available on our website, stjohnmemphis.org, under parish – online sign ups.

- 30th Anniversary & Hierarchal Visit
- Mercy Meals
- Wednesday Meal Pick Up (or cooking)
- Coffee Hour

Library Lines

AND MORE NEW BOOKS!!

- *Akathist Hymn To the Holy Theotokos “Swift To Hear”* SPR PRA STP
- *Life of Our Father Among the Saints: Our Holy Father John of Rila* HAG JOH BOC
- *Sasha and the Dragon* (KID CHU WOL) A dragon lurks under the bed of a small boy, and the child learns to trust in God and his guardian angel to chase away his fears.

Pelagia 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, “Pelagia; Beauty Riding By” in *Harlots of the Desert* (HAG - - - WAR) and in *The Desert Fathers*, p. 173 (PAT - - - WAD).

Monday, 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 as “the God of our fathers, God of Abraham, Isaac and their righteous seed in some of our prayers, including ones in the funeral service and the Lenten Prayer of Manasseh.

Sts. Andronicus and his wife, Athanasia (10/9), lived out their faith in alms-giving. He was a craftsman and gave three equal portions of his income to the Church, the poor, and to his family’s support. After their children died, they mutually agreed to live the rest of their lives in separate monasteries. Twelve years later they met on a pilgrimage, but St. Athanasia had dressed as a man to ensure her safety while traveling. Also, because her ascetic efforts had changed her appearance, Andronicus didn’t recognize his wife. They returned to his monastery and lived in the same cell in a life of monastic silence. She left a letter telling her secret which was to be read after her death.

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 in 1829 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 Emmaus* # 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.

Thursday, 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.” Read more about him in *Christina’s Favorite Saints* (KID STS KHO).