

From the Fathers (and others):

“That is why it is proper for your conduct and your practices to correspond closely with the mind of the bishop. And this, indeed, they are doing; your justly respected clergy, who are a credit to God, are attuned to their bishop like the strings of a harp, and the result is a hymn of praise to Jesus Christ from minds that are in unison, and affections that are in harmony. Pray, then, come and join this choir, every one of you; let there be a whole symphony of minds in concert; take the tone all together from God, and sing aloud to the Father with one voice through Jesus Christ, so that He may hear you and know by your good works that you are indeed members of His Son’s Body. A completely united front will help to keep you in constant communion with God.”

Ignatius to the Ephesians

“If the prayer of one or two individuals has such efficacy, how much more powerful is that of the bishop together with his whole church.”

Ignatius to the Ephesians

Our Lord humbled without humiliation His lofty station which yet could not be humbled, and condescends to His servants, with a condescension ineffable and incomprehensible. God being perfect becomes perfect man, and brings to perfection the newest of all new things (cf. Eccles 1:10), the only new thing under the sun, through which the boundless might of God is manifested. For what greater thing is there than that God should become man?

St. John of Damascus

The Lord does not give me rules, He makes His standard very clear, and if my relationship to Him is that of love, I will do what He says without any hesitation. If I hesitate, it is because I love someone else in competition with Him, viz., myself (Luke 9:23).

Oswald Chambers

"Guard your mind from evil thoughts concerning your neighbors, knowing that the demons put them there, aiming to blind you to your own sins and prevent you from directing yourself toward God."

St. Elias the Egyptian

... if we are ashamed to imitate our Lord's sufferings, which He endured for us, and to suffer as He suffered, it is obvious that we shall not become partakers with Him in His glory. If that is true of us we shall be believers in word only, not in deed. When deeds are absent, our faith is dead.

St. Symeon the New Theologian

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ November 19, 2017 ~
24th Sunday after Pentecost*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
(901) 274-4119

www.stjohnmemphis.org

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

November 19, 2017 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Karen Bell**.

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

November 19 - 26 (Nativity Fast)

Sunday -Young Adults, 5:00 p.m., Fr. Alex's home
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Orthros, 5:00 p.m.
-Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - Entrance of the Theotokos, 6:00 p.m.
-Parish Meal to follow Liturgy
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday -OFFICE CLOSED
Thursday -OFFICE CLOSED
Friday -OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday -Ninth Hour and Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -Orthros & Church School, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY – Entrance of the Theotokos Monday, November 20, 6:00 p.m.

PRIEST: +NICHOLAS HOMILY: +NICHOLAS
READER:
HOLY BREAD: Anne Dugan
ALTAR SERVERS: Pavel, Max, Brody, Paul, volunteer
COFFEE HOUR: Anna Pashchinskaya, Lavinia Dumitrache, Ben Arthur

DIVINE LITURGY Sunday, November 26, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip HOMILY: Fr. Philip
READER: Jack Turner USHER: Bill Harter
HOLY BREAD: Judy Terry
ALTAR SERVERS: Zach, Nick, Elijah, Eli, Gabe
COFFEE HOUR: Christine McGee, Sandy & Mitch Childress

Upcoming at St. John

Paraklesis We will pray Paraklesis each Monday evening of Nativity, 6:00 p.m. (November 27; December 4, 11, 18)
December 6 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Nicholas, 9:00 a.m. St. Nicholas, following dinner Wednesday evening
December 12 Caroling at King's Daughters home, 6:30 p.m.

The NATIVITY FAST began November 15 - It is divided into two periods. The 1st period is November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The 2nd period is December 20th through 24th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

***In this country, there is generally katalysis (relaxation from the fast) for Thanksgiving celebrations.*

COMMEMORATIONS

Nov. 19: Prophet Obadiah; Martyrs Agapios, Azi of Isauria, Barlaam of Caesarea in Cappadocia, Heliodoros of Thessalonika and Euphemia; Venerable Barlaam and Joasaph; Venerable Barlaam of the Kiev Caves.

Nov. 20: Gregory of Decapolis; Proclos, Maximos and Anatolios, patriarchs of Constantinople; Venerable Sozomen the wonder-worker.

Nov. 21: The Entrance of the Theotokos into the temple. Venerable Columban of Ireland.

Nov. 22: Apostles Philemon, Apphia, Archippos and Onesimos of the Seventy; Clement, bishop of Ochrid and enlightener of Bulgaria; Hieromartyr Sisinius; Venerable Kallistos Xanthopoulos of Athos; Martyr Michael, prince of Tver.

Nov. 23: Gregory, bishop of agrigentum; Amphilokios, bishop of Iconium; Ischyriion, bishop in Egypt and hermit of Sketis; Venerable Sisinius the Confessor of Kyzikos; Dionysios, patriarch of Constantinople; repose of Alexander Nevsky, prince of Novgorod; Metrophanes, first bishop of Voronezh.

Nov. 24: Clement, pope of Rome; Hieromartyrs Peter, archbishop of Alexandria, and Hermogenes, bishop of Agrigentum; Martyrs Philomenos and Alexander of Corinth.

Nov. 25: Great-martyrs Katherine the all-wise of Alexandria and Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk.

Nov. 26: Venerable Alypios the Stylite, Stylianos of Paphlagonia and Nikon the preacher of repentance; New-martyr George of Chios; repose of Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk.

Nov. 27: Great-martyr James the Persian; Venerable Palladios of Thessalonika; Venerable Nathanael of Nitria; James, bishop of Rostov.

Nov. 28: Venerable-martyr Stephen the New; Martyr Irinarchos of Sebaste and those with him.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 12-19

Sunday	Ephesians	2:14-22	Luke	12:16-21
Monday	Hebrews	7:26-28, 8:1-2	Luke	17:20-25
Tuesday	Hebrews	9:1-7	Luke	10:38-42, 11:27, 28
Wednesday	Philemon	1:1-25	Luke	18:15-17, 26-30
Thursday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Luke	18:31-34
Friday	Philippians	3:20-21, 4:1-3	John	15:17-27, 16:1-2
Saturday	Galatians	3:23-29, 4:1-5	Mark	5:24 -34
Sunday	Ephesians	4:1-7	Luke	18:18-27

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), Heather Hetrick (pregnant), Julie Hight (pregnant), Janna Knight (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), Brenda Thomas, Doris & Jim (Brenda Thomas’ family), Dot Lawson (Pam Bowick’s mother & Lawson’s grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha’s daughter), Glenda Brooks, Anna Grace (Joyce Grossman’s granddaughter), Maria Bellaflares, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Welcome Metropolitan JOSEPH and Bishop NICHOLAS!! It is truly a profound blessing to welcome into our community our beloved hierarchs. These men tirelessly lead the Church in North America. May God protect and preserve them for many years!!

THANK YOU!!! A special “Thank you” to all of the hard workers who made our event last night possible, especially Mrs. Trish Ratliff and Mrs. Reem Mansour!! It was a great blessing to welcome so many people into our new St. Raphael Hall!

Save the Date! – St. John will again be **Caroling at King’s Daughters and Sons Nursing Home** on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us for a blessed evening!

Nativity Play - Advent means “Preparing for Jesus’ birth.” The children of St. John will glorify Him with their traditional Nativity play on Sunday, December 17 after the liturgy. Please be on the lookout for more details about the first rehearsal, etc. Contact Claire van Drimmelen with any questions.

Sacristan Garden. You might have noticed that the area around the sign is beginning to look different! Thanks be to God, a group has come together to beautify that area while also providing flowers for the atrium children as they celebrate the liturgical year. If you would like to help with this wonderful project, please see either Lynda Spinolo or Sarah Ortwein.

Parents Corner:

We all love our new space and how much more comfortable it is. In order to keep it a safe place, please be mindful that children should not be running in any space inside the Church building. This helps us to avoid accidents throughout the Church. Please also be mindful of any mess that your children might make during coffee hour or meals in the Church. Thank you for your help in maintaining our space!

Sons of Thunder will meet Sunday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. at Keith Parker’s home. They will be discussing *The Singing Heart: A Book of Quiet Reflections* by Ivan Ilyin.

Master Plan updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – Thanks be to God, the acoustic wallpaper was installed this week!! Lord willing, this will be a big help for our sound issue. If not, we will continue to work to properly address the situation so that we can use the space effectively. Thank you for all of your gracious and generous support during our building project!!!

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.



St. Nicholas Play



We will celebrate **Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas** on the evening of December 6 at 6:00 p.m. following dinner, our teens will again present a short play on the life of the saint. As is our tradition, we will collect gifts from the children for the Neighborhood Christian Center Christmas store. **Gifts should be new and not wrapped.** Dinner will follow for all, including what we hope will be a number of guests. **Please bring fasting-friendly desserts to share.**

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 11/19:** Clifford McWhorter
Monday, 11/20: Lynda Spinolo, Karen Bell
Tuesday, 11/21: Diya John
Wednesday, 11/22: Alex Mansour
Friday, 11/24: *St. Edmund: Edmund Knight*
Saturday, 11/25: Fr. Alex
St. Katherine, the Great: Kh. Kathryn, Caitlyn Maas, Cailyn Ratliff, Ava Ortwein, Katelyn Shleweet, Isabelle Mansour, Kathryn McWhorter, Katie Yadron



BOOKSTORE NEWS

50% off Sale still going on!
New in the Bookstore: 2018 Wall Calendars, 2018 Icon Calendars, 2018 Daily Lives and Wisdom of the Saints.

Women of St. John Calendar

- Dec. 2** Prayers for the Departed, 9:00 a.m with fast-friendly potluck brunch to follow
Dec. 7 Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m., location tbd
Jan. 8 AWSJ Book Club – *Wicked River: The Mississippi When It Last Ran Wild* by Lee Sandlin

Library Lines

The prophet Obadiah (11/19), a faithful servant of the Most High God, was a steward in the house of the idolatrous King Ahab. Obadiah healed one of three groups of soldiers sent by Queen Jezebel to arrest the Prophet Elias. Heavenly fire consumed two of the detachments, but Obadiah and his men were spared through the intercession of Elias. Thereupon, Obadiah resigned his position and became a disciple of the Holy Prophet. His life is recounted in the first and second books of Kings, and his prophecy is included in the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament.

Tuesday, we commemorate the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple. Many of us came from backgrounds in which this feast was not only entirely unknown but also unimaginable. The High Priest, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, led her into the Holy of Holies, much to the astonishment of all. After her Presentation in the Temple, the Theotokos lived there until her adulthood. She, along with others who were dedicated to the service of the Lord, lived in quarters set aside for them. St. Jerome says that how she spent her time is known only to God and the Archangel Gabriel. But, Tradition says she and the other virgins prayed, read Scripture and engaged in needlework. The Church has celebrated this feast since the first centuries A.D. Read more about her and this feast in *The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple* (KID CHU ELA), *The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos* (KID STS MAR), *The Story of Mary, the Mother of God* (KID STS MAR), *The Life of the Virgin Mary* (REF HAG - - - HOL), and the many other books on her life in St. John Library. Also take a look at "The Entry of the Theotokos" in *Orthodox America* #23 October 1982 on page 9.

Wednesday, we honor another apostle. Philemon was one of the Seventy, and he and his servant, St. Onesimus, were recipients of the Epistle *Philemon* from St. Paul. The apostle and his wife, Apphia, offered their house to the Christian community as a meeting place for the church. They met a martyr's death during the persecution of Nero.

From early childhood, St. Katherine (11/25) was recognized for her intellect and was instructed by her mother's spiritual father. When grown, she refused marriage and sought to unite herself to her heavenly Bridegroom. She boldly and eloquently defended her Faith before Emperor Maximian, was tortured and martyred in 305 with 200 others who professed Christ because of her courageous testimony. Read more about her in *The Life and Sufferings of St. Katherine* (KID STS KAT), *Grandmother's Spiritual Stories* (KID STS HRO), and "The Original Princess Bride: St. Katherine of Alexandria" in *The Handmaiden*, winter 1997, p. 17.

REGULAR ALMS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Birthright ✦ St. John Alms Fund ✦ St. Brigid Food Pantry ✦
 ✦ St. John Camping Fund ✦ Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Mission Fund ✦
 ✦ Michael & Abigail Bittle Fund ✦ Room in the Inn ✦