

### **From the Fathers (and others):**

Go on into the church, and a spiritual dew will envelop your soul. The stillness there moves you to awe, and teaches you how to live spiritually. It elevates your thoughts and prevents you from remembering things or matters belonging to the present life. It transports you from earth to heaven. And if there is such great gain from simply being in church when no service is going on, then how much benefit will people derive from being present...when the holy Apostles proclaim the Gospel, Christ stands in our midst, God the Father receives the Mysteries that are performed and the Holy Spirit gives His own joy."

St. John Chrysostom

So that the Lord might pay attention to our virtues, they must be accompanied by physical temperance and a pure conscience.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

Since 'the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force' (Mt. 11:12), and it is impossible for the faithful to enter it by any other way, unless they come through the narrow gate of trials and tribulations, the divine oracle rightly commands us, saying: 'Strive to enter by the narrow door' (Lk. 13:24). Again He says, 'By your endurance you will gain your souls' (Lk. 21:19), and, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of heaven' (Acts 14:22).

St. Symeon the New Theologian

Fasting is not avoiding food, but putting away all evil, controlling the tongue from idle talking and gossip, forbearing from anger, and abstaining from lust, falsehood, and flattery. Whoever fasts in this way, his fast is pleasing to God.

Abba Moses of Scetis

Make a new start every day, with a new resolution, enthusiasm and love, prayer and silence.

St Porphyrios

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## **St. John Orthodox Church**



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*~ November 20, 2016 ~  
Forefeast of the Entry of the  
Most Holy Theotokos*

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

[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

[www.orthodoxtupelo.com](http://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 20, 2016

### Forefeast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos

**Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18**

**Gospel: Luke 12:16-21**

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

**Nov. 20 - 27 (Nativity Fast)**

- Sunday** -Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
-Great Vespers for the Presentation, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday** -Divine Liturgy for the Presentation, 9:00 a.m.  
-Paraklesis, 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Barksdale's  
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., The Divine Liturgy - conclusion
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.,  
-NO Parish Meal following  
-NO Wednesday Teaching
- Thursday** -OFFICE CLOSED
- Friday** -OFFICE CLOSED
- 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

**Monday, November 21, 9:00 a.m.**

**PRIEST:** Fr. Alex  
**HOMILY:** Fr. Alex  
**HOLY BREAD:** Anne Dugan  
**ALTAR SERVERS:** Zach & Eli  
**COFFEE HOUR:** Trish Ratliff, Caitlin Romero

### DIVINE LITURGY

**Sunday, November 27, 10:00 a.m.**

**PRIEST:** Fr. Alex  
**HOMILY:** Fr. Alex  
**READER:** David Twombly  
**USHER:** Matt Spinolo  
**HOLY BREAD:** Trish Ratliff  
**ALTAR SERVERS:** Cade, Pavel, James, Alex, Paul  
**COFFEE HOUR:** Stephanie Harants, Justin Bowles

**The NATIVITY FAST began November 15** - It is divided into two periods. The 1<sup>st</sup> period is November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> period is December 20<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## COMMEMORATIONS

**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.



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Financial Pledges for 2017** – Many thanks to those of you who have returned your financial pledge for the coming year. If you have not done so, we still need yours. As we try to plan the future of our parish, this information is critical to our making reasonable plans. Since we are undertaking a sizeable building project, communicating your financial commitment to the ongoing activities of our parish is most especially important. Please try to have yours returned by December 1.

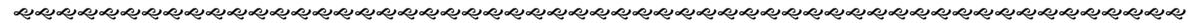
**Thanksgiving and the Fast** – Remember, in America there has been a general sense of great leniency in the fast for Thanksgiving. Giving thanks to God for all that we have been given is a most important aspect of a spiritual life. May we all be most mindful this Thanksgiving for the great bounty that God has bestowed on us and our community!

**Wednesday Night Teaching** – We will not have teaching this week. However, Fr Alex will wrap up his series on music on Wednesday, November 30. Fr. John will then lead a series on the Orthodox approach to Scripture.

**Nave Cleaning** – We will prepare the nave for the great feast of Nativity by having a cleaning on Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. There will be jobs for all ages and abilities, so please come to assist as you are able.

**Calendar Update** – *Daily Lives, Miracles and Wisdom of the Saints* spiral bound books can be found downstairs in the bookstore for those who would like to purchase them. Cost is \$18.

Additionally, this year we have ordered new wall calendars from Annunciation Press! These new calendars feature a beautiful icon each month, denote fast days as well as daily readings and commemorations. These should be arriving in the next week. Cost is \$3.



### **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **November 13 - 20**

Sunday	Galatians	6:11-18	Luke	12:16-21
Monday	Hebrews	9:1-7	Luke	10:38-42; 11:27-28
Tuesday	Philemon	1:1-25	Luke	17:26-37; 18:8
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians	2:1-8	Luke	18:15-17, 26-30
Thursday	Philippians	3:20-4:3	Luke	18:31-34
Friday	Galatians	3:23-4:5	Mark	5:24-34
Saturday	2 Corinthians	8:1-5	Luke	10:19-21
Sunday	Ephesians	2:4-10	Luke	18:18-27



**Pray for our catechumens: Memphis - Ben Arthur,;**

**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), 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 Drobashovsky, Maria Bellaflores, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

**Sunday, 11/20:** Lynda Spinolo, Karen Bell  
*St. Edmund the Martyr: Edmund James Knight*

**Monday, 11/21:** Diya John

**Tuesday, 11/22:** Alex Mansour

**Friday, 11/25:** Fr. Alex

*St. Katherine the Great Martyr: Kh. Kathryn, Isabelle Mansour, Caitlyn Maas, Cailyn Ratliff, Katelyn Shleweet, Katie Yadron, Kate Lyons, Kathryn McWhorter, Ava Ortwein, Kate Kumar*

**Saturday, 11/26:** Anniversaries:  
Matt & Lynda Spinolo  
Luke & Janan Heisig

## Master Plan Updates

**Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc.** – The architects hope to finish the drawings by Wednesday!!! The bidding to subcontractors will take about 3 weeks to complete following the completion of the drawings. We should have our Guaranteed Maximum Cost by Nativity and be breaking ground early in the new year! Glory to God!

**Fund raising** – Thank you for your help thus far!! There are pledge cards for the building fund available downstairs. Every little bit helps!

## Women of St. John ~ AWSJ

**December 1** ~Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela's home  
**December 11** ~AWSJ Business Meeting during coffee hour  
**January 9** ~AWSJ Book Club will resume in the new year with a discussion of *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith. 7:00 p.m. at Kh. Pamela's home.

### Upcoming at St. John

**Enrollment** November 20: Justin Bowles; Wendy, Brody, & Eli Weatherall; and Lucas Whatley  
November 27: Chelsea Yadron & Gabriel  
**Churching** December 11: Edmund Knight  
**Great Vespers** November 20 Entry of the Theotokos, 6:00 p.m.  
**Divine Liturgy** November 21 Entry of the Theotokos, 9:00 a.m.  
**Paraklesis** We will pray Paraklesis each Monday evening of Nativity, 6:00 p.m. (November 21, 28; December 12, 19 – 6:00 p.m.)  
**November 26 & 27** Office Closed for Thanksgiving  
**December 4** Soup Kitchen at First Presbyterian downtown, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
**December 5** Great Vespers for St. Nicholas, 5:50 p.m. with Teen St. Nicholas play to follow – *We will be collecting unwrapped toys for the MIFA store following the play*  
**December 13** Caroling at King's Daughters home, 6:30 p.m.

### teen group

**TODAY:** Play practice & Vespers, 5– 7

**NEXT WEEK:** Play practice, 5– 7

## Library Lines

Monday 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 and at "Feasts of the Entrance into the Temple" in *Life Transfigured* Nativity 2011 on page 2.

Tuesday, 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.

This week we commemorate three saints; two wise and one "fool." 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), "The Original Princess Bride: St. Katherine of Alexandria" in *The Handmaiden*, winter 1997, p. 17 and "Saint Katherine of the Wheel and How She Inspires Me" in *The Veil*, Dormition 2007, p. 18.

St. Innocent of Irkutsk (11/26) began his career as a professor of theology and received an appointment as a naval chaplain. In 1710, he was tonsured as a monk. He was consecrated as a bishop in 1721 and attached to a mission in China although denied entrance to the country by the civil authorities. He served his people from the border under harsh living conditions and concentrated his efforts on two schools which he opened. Due to the severe climate and illnesses, he reposed at age 51. Ironically, his relics were removed from their shrine after the Russian Revolution. They were taken to a museum and displayed as "mummified remains of an unknown man." Today they are venerated by the faithful in Irkutsk. For more information, see *New Apostles of Christ* (HAG - - - HAT) and Recently *Canonized Orthodox Saints* (HAG - - - DEV).

St. Alypius (11/26) is one several saints considered "fools-for Christ." He yearned for the solitary life from his youth but was not given the blessing to live so. Once on a journey, he had a vision of St. Euphemia. She directed him to build a church in her honor, and he did so. There, he erected a pillar and spent a life of prayer and teaching for the next fifty-three years. He reposed in 640. For more on fools-for-Christ, see *The Freedom of Morality* (CAT SPEC YAN), *The Inner Kingdom* (CAT GEN WAR) and *Seraphim's Seraphim* (HAG SER HAT).