

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

"If but ten among us lead a holy life, we shall kindle a fire which shall light up the entire city."

St. John Chrysostom

It is to function for Christ that the human heart has been created. Like an immense jewelry case, it is vast enough to contain even God! That is why nothing below can satisfy us.

Nicholas Cabasilas

"Christians, above all men, are forbidden to correct the stumblings of sinners by force...it is necessary to make a man better not by force but by persuasion. God gives the crown to those who are kept from evil, not by force, but by choice."

St. John Chrysostom

... simplicity of conduct is an assurance of great security. Hear what is affirmed by the witness of Scripture, 'His communing is with the simple' (Prov. 3:32). For God's communing is His revealing of secrets to human minds by the illumination of His presence.

St. Gregory the Great

There is a single energy of God and the saints, they are living icons of Christ, being the same as He is, by grace rather than by assimilation.

St. Maximos the Confessor

Our Lord heals one that is deaf, who has an impediment of speech (cf. Mk. 7:31-37), He spat, and touched the man's tongue, showing that every part of His holy flesh was divine and holy, so that even His spittle loosed the bonds of the tongue. Although spittle seems worthless, with the Lord all things are marvelous and divine.

Blessed Theophylact

'Unless your righteousness shall exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven' (Mt. 5:20). What does 'exceed' refer to? In the first place, we must believe not only in the Father, but also in His Son now revealed; for He it is Who leads man into fellowship and unity with God. In the next place, we must not only say, but we must do; for they said and did not. And we must not only abstain from evil deeds, but even from the desires after them. Now He did not teach us these things as being opposed to the Law, but as fulfilling the law, and implanting in us the varied righteousness of the Law.

St. Irenaeus

# St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ November 26, 2017 ~  
25th Sunday after Pentecost*

**ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TN 38107  
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[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

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**V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers**  
Pastor

**V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman**  
Associate Pastor

**V. Rev Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul**  
Assistant Pastor

**Rev. Fr. Donald Berge**  
Attached

**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 26, 2017 25th Sunday after Pentecost

**Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7**

**Gospel: Luke 18:18-27**

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Judy Terry**.

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 26 – December 3

(Nativity Fast)

- Sunday** -Reading of *The St. Nicholas Day Snow* by Charli Riggle in the library during coffee hour  
-Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., play practice
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 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., Holy Mysteries, Pt. 3
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Dinner, 5:30 p.m.,  
-Wednesday Teaching, 6:15 p.m., Feasts of December  
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 a.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -Orthros & Church School, 9:00 a.m.  
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
-Nativity Play practice – during coffee hour

### DIVINE LITURGY

**Sunday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.**

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Alex
READER:	David Twombly	USHER:	Aaron White
HOLY BREAD:	Stephanie Harants		
ALTAR SERVERS:	James, Mark, Thomas, Alex, volunteer		
COFFEE HOUR:	Buddy & Pam Bowick, Kh. Martha, Stephanie Harants		

### 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 Play following dinner Wednesday evening
- December 9** Chrismation of Ian Curry, John Curry, Allie Helms, Marissa Kizer, Jon Mark & Heather Hetrick, Jamie Escue, and Justin Bowles following Vespers.
- December 12** Caroling at King's Daughters home, 6:30 p.m.
- December 16** Chrismation of Tom Ashworth

## COMMEMORATIONS

**Nov. 26:** Venerable Alypius 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.

**Nov. 29:** Martyrs Paramon of Bithynia and Philoumenos of Ancyra; Venerable Akakios of Sinai; Hieromartyr Dionysios, bishop of Corinth; Urban, bishop of Macedonia; Nicholas, archbishop of Thessalonika.

**Nov. 30:** Apostle Andrew the First-Called; Frumentios, archbishop and enlightener of Ethiopia; Alexander, bishop of Methymna.

**December 1:** Prophet Nahum; Venerable Philaretos the merciful of Amnia; Martyr Ananias the Persian; Theoklitos, archbishop of Lakedaimonias.

**December 2:** Prophet Habakkuk; Martyrs Abibos the New and Myrope of Chios; Venerable Theophilos and Andrew of Egypt; Urosh, Serbian king; Venerable Ioanikios of Devitch.

**December 3:** Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonios); Martyrs Agapios and Seleukos; New-martyr Angelis of Chios; Venerable Theodoulos of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Gabriel, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Cosmas of St. Anne skete on Athos; Venerable Sabbas of Zvenigorod, disciple of Sergios of Radonezh.



### **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **November 26 – December 3**

Sunday	Ephesians	4:1-7	Luke	18:18-27
Monday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	Luke	19:37-44
Tuesday	2 Timothy	1:8-18	Luke	19:45-48
Wednesday	Romans	8:14-21	Luke	20:1-8
Thursday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	John	1:35-41
Friday	1 Corinthians	14:20-25	Luke	20:19-26
Saturday	Romans	11:2-12	Luke	12:32-40
Sunday	Ephesians	5:8-19	Luke	18:35-43



**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 Bellaflores, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**What a Weekend!!** Thanks be to God, we had a glorious weekend with Metropolitan JOSEPH and Bishop NICHOLAS. Both of them left overjoyed for having experienced our community and strongly desire to visit again. Metropolitan JOSEPH spoke of wanting to see Graceland and the Pyramid and Bishop NICHOLAS would like to try Gus’s and Central BBQ! I think we can make that happen. Please, continue to keep our bishops in your prayers. May God grant them many years!!

*The St. Nicholas Day Snow* written by former St. John Parishioner, Charli Riggle, will be read to the children this morning during coffee hour in the library.

**Caroling at King’s Daughters and Sons Nursing Home** - St. John will again be Caroling at King’s Daughters 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 (Level 1 atrium through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will glorify Him with their traditional Nativity play on Sunday, December 17 after the liturgy. We will practice in the nave following liturgy on December 3 & 10. All children in Level 1 atrium through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to participate regardless of whether or not they attend Church School. 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.

**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, our hall was blessed by Metropolitan JOSEPH and Bishop NICHOLAS during their visit last weekend. May the Lord continue to bless the work that will continue for years to come!!! We are still working on the acoustics, though the wallpaper did seem to make a marked improvement. Thank God!

**Fund raising** – We have made our final draw on the loan! We will now begin the process of paying down the mortgage. Our pledged commitments DO NOT YET meet the projected mortgage payment. If you would like to help with a regular gift towards the mortgage, you can speak to Fr. Philip. Thank you for your help!!!



# St. Nicholas Play



We will celebrate **Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas** on the morning of December 6 at 9:00 a.m. That evening, following 5:30 dinner, our teens will again present a short play on the life of the saint in place of our normal Wednesday teaching. 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, 11/26:** Anniversary: Luke & Janan Heisig, Matt & Lynda Spinolo  
**Monday, 11/27:** Katie Yadron, Giancarlo Yzaguirre  
**Wednesday, 11/29:** Adrian Kumar  
 Anniversary: Bill & Terry Harter  
**Thursday, 11/30:** Mawusi McKelroy  
*Andrew, the First Called: Andrew McKelroy, Rod Ratliff, Andrew Sanderlin, Andrew Yadron, Elijah Brackey, Andrew Labonte*



## BOOKSTORE NEWS

**50% off Sale** still going on! *Does not include calendars, Orthodox Study Bibles or Pocket Prayer Books.*  
**New in the Bookstore:** 2018 Wall Calendars, 2018 Icon Calendars, 2018

Daily Lives and Wisdom of the Saints.

## Women of St. John Calendar

- Dec. TBD** 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

### 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 ♦

## Library Lines

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 GEN YAN), *The Inner Kingdom* (CAT GEN WAR) and *Seraphim's Seraphim* (HAG SER HAT).

The Apostle Andrew (11/30) was the First-Called disciple, although not in the “inner circle.” He was devout from his youth and chose to never marry. He and St. John the Theologian were originally disciples of John the Baptist. Upon hearing the Forerunner proclaim, “Behold the Lamb of God!” Andrew immediately followed Christ and brought his brother Peter to Him. After Pentecost, he traveled through Asia Minor into what is now Russia. He was martyred by crucifixion, being tied instead of nailed to a cross to prolong his suffering. See more about him in *Christ in His Saints* (HAG - - - REA). Read to your children about him from *The Cross on the Hill* (KID STS AND) and *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR). See also *Road to Emmaus*, the fall 2004 issue for his connections to Valaam Monastery in the days of ancient Russia.

In December we honor several Old Testament saints, including the Minor Prophets. Friday we honor the Prophet Nahum (12/1). He is perhaps the least known of the Minor Prophets. The short book is considered to be a masterpiece of literature; partially because of his powerful, short sentences and word-pictures. He treats his readers with alliteration and rare idioms. His writing did not call Israel to repentance nor condemn the nation for her infidelity; however, he prophesied the destruction of Nineveh after the city forgot God's warning 200 years ago from Jonah. His intercessions are asked for those with mental illnesses, perhaps in keeping with his name which means “full of consolation or comfort.”

The Prophet Habakkuk (12/2) prophesied the destruction of the Temple, the Babylonian captivity and the birth of Christ. He had fled the Holy Land during the Babylonian war, but he was taken back there by angel and ministered to the imprisoned Prophet Daniel. He is perhaps one of the most well-known Minor Prophets to us; on every Pascha we sing of him and his message of hope in Christ.

Saint Myrope (12/2) lived in the third century. Her devotion and loyalty led to her martyrdom and, as frequently occurs, her own martyrdom led to the salvation and martyrdom of others. After the pious soldier, Isidore, was killed for his faith, guards were posted to keep Christians from taking his body. Under darkness, Myrope removed and buried it. When the guards were threatened with torture for failing to perform their duty, Myrope compassionately admitted taking the body and was martyred. One of her guards related her story to a priest and was baptized and later martyred himself.