

From the Fathers (and others):

The slave of the belly ponders the menu with which to celebrate the feast.
The servant of God, however, thinks of the graces that may enrich him.

St. John Climacus

One commandment is higher than another; consequently one level of faith is more firmly founded than another. There is faith 'that comes by hearing' (Rom. 10:17) and there is faith that 'is the substance of things hoped for' (Heb. 11:1).

St. Mark the Ascetic

Just as the most bitter medicine drives our poisonous things, so prayer joined to fasting drives evil thoughts away.

Amma Synclctica

"It is not necessary to roam heaven and earth after God or to send our mind to seek Him in different places. Purify your soul, O son of man, remove from yourself the thought of memories outside of nature; hang the veil of chastity and humility before your impulses. By means of these you will be able to find Him who is within you."

St. Isaac the Syrian

Whoever hates the seduction and distraction of the mind that comes in worldly affairs will see his Master and Lord within his heart.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

"A strange illness has appeared in our days – the passion for distractions. Never before was there such a desire for distractions; people have forgotten how to lead a serious life for the good of others; they have no spiritual life and are bored. They exchange the profound content of a spiritual life for distractions! What madness! It is here that pastors must deploy their strength: they must re-introduce into life its lost meaning and give back to the people the knowledge of the true purpose of life."

St. John of Kronstadt

There are two kinds of gluttony. One is when a man seeks food that pleases him and does not always want to eat very much, but wishes to eat only what pleases his palate. Another is when a man is overcome by a tendency to eat much He only wants to eat and eat, nor minding what the food may be, only caring to fill his belly.

St. Abba Dorotheus,
Directions on Spiritual Training

St. John Orthodox Church



~ November 27, 2016 ~
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Great-Martyr James the Persian

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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 27, 2016

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Trish Ratliff**.

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. 27 – Dec. 4 (Nativity Fast)

- Sunday** -Nativity Play meeting during coffee hour
-Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 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., final class of 2016
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.,
- Parish Meal following
- Wednesday Teaching, 7:00 p.m., Fr. John
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela's home
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- 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.
-Nativity Play practice – during coffee hour
-Soup Kitchen, 1st Presbyterian Downtown, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, December 4, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	Jack Turner	USHER:	Dan O'Brien
HOLY BREAD:	Margaret McKelroy		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Trent, Max, Eli, Nicholas, Thomas		
COFFEE HOUR:	Aaron & Melissa White, HELP NEEDED		

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.

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

December 4: Great-martyr Barbara of Heliopolis in Syria; Venerable John of Damascus; Martyr Juliana; New-hieromartyr Seraphim, bishop of Phanar in Greece.



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.

Wednesday Night Teaching –Fr. John will begin a series on the Orthodox approach to Scripture.

Nativity Play - Advent means “Get Ready” for Christ to be born. The children of St. John will glorify Him with their traditional Nativity play on Sunday, December 18 after the liturgy. Our first meeting will be TODAY during coffee hour. Future rehearsals will be Dec. 4th & 11th during coffee hour and Dec. 10th at 5:00 p.m. before Vespers.

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. Cost is \$3.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 27 – December 4

Sunday	Ephesians	2:4-10	Luke	18:18-27
Monday	1 Thessalonians	2:20-3:8	Luke	19:37-44
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians	3:8-13	Luke	19:45-48
Wednesday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	John	1:35-52
Thursday	1 Thessalonians	4:18-5:10	Luke	20:9-18
Friday	1 Thessalonians	5:9-13, 24-28	Luke	20:19-26
Saturday	2 Corinthians	11:1-6	Luke	12:32-40
Sunday	Galatians	3:23-4:5	Luke	13:10-17



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis - Ben Arthur; Justin Bowles; Wendy, Brody, & Eli Weatherall; Lucas Whatley; Chelsea Yadron & Gabriel de la Torre.

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), Elfreida Drobashevsky, Maria Bellaflores, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 11/27: Katie Yadron, Weston Leopold, Giancarlo Yzaguirre

Tuesday, 11/29: Adrian Kumar

Anniversary: Bill & Terry Harter

Wednesday, 11/30: Anniversary: Philip & Mawusi McKelroy

Andrew, the First Called: Andrew McKelroy, Rod Ratliff,

Andrew Sanderlin, Elijah Brackey, Andrew Labonte

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – The architectural drawings are complete!! They have been submitted to the contractor for the official bidding to the sub-contractors. May the Lord bless us to have exactly the right people doing the work on our new building! 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** Today: Chelsea Yadron & Gabriel
Churching December 11: Edmund Knight
Paraklesis We will pray Paraklesis each Monday evening of Nativity, 6:00 p.m. (November 28; December 12, 19 – 6:00 p.m.)
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.



St. Nicholas Great Vespers



We will pray great vespers Monday evening, December 5, for St. Nicholas at 6:00 p.m. Following vespers, 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 MIFA Christmas store. **Gifts should be new and not wrapped.** Refreshments will follow for all, including what we hope will be a number of guests. **Please bring fasting-friendly finger foods (cookies, pretzels) to share.**

Library Lines

In December we honor several Old Testament saints, including the Minor Prophets. Thursday 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.”

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 a pious soldier, Isidore, was killed for his faith, guards were posted to keep Christians from taking his body. Under darkness, she removed and buried it. The guards were threatened with torture for failing to perform their duty. Myrope had compassion on the condemned men and admitted taking the body, and she was then martyred. One of her guards related her story to a priest and was baptized and later was martyred himself.

The Prophet Zephaniah (12/3) is known also by the name Sophronios. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and helped the boy king Josiah destroy idol worship. He is often shown as resembling St. John the Theologian. He and the Prophet Habakkuk (12/2) were both descended from the tribe of Simeon. Habakkuk prophesied the Babylonian captivity and the return to Jerusalem. During this period, he lived in Arabia. However, while taking food to workers in the fields, he was miraculously transported to the Prophet Daniel in Babylon and fed him there. We also honor him during Holy Week when we sing in the Paschal canon, “Foreseeing your divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: ‘Thou shattered the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.’ “ Read more about the Minor Prophets in *Christ in His Saints* (HAG - - - REA).

teen group

TODAY: Play practice & Vespers, 5– 7

NEXT WEEK: Play practice, 5– 7