

From the Fathers (and others):

The Lord came to send fire upon the earth (cf. Lk. 12:49), and through participation in this fire He makes divine not just the human substance which He assumed for our sake, but every person who is found worthy of communion with Him.

St. Gregory Palamas

"The fabric of justice is thinner than silk, but it is more durable and less easily torn, and encompasses both worlds, while the fabric of injustice and violence is thick and breaks easily." -- St. Nikolai of Zica

Self-justification has no place in the life of a Christian, and can be found nowhere in Christ's teachings.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

Unbelievers, those who believe with difficulty, or believe in part, are those who do not show their faith through works. Apart from works the demons also believe (cf. Jms. 2:19) and confess Christ to be God and Master. 'We know Who You are' (Mk. 1:24), they say, 'You are the Son of God' (Mt. 8:29), and elsewhere, 'These men are the servants of the Most High God' (Acts 16:17). Yet such faith will not benefit the demons, nor even humans. This faith is of no use, for it is dead.

St. Symeon the New Theologian

If everything that exists was made by God and for God, and God is superior to the things made by Him, he who abandons what is superior and devotes Himself to what is inferior shows that he values things made by God more than God Himself.

St. Maximos the Confessor

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ November 6, 2016 ~
20th Sunday after Pentecost*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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 6, 2016 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Reem Mansour**.

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. 6 – 13 (Wed. & Fri. Fast)

- Sunday** -**PARISH MEETING** during Coffee Hour
-Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
-Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club, 6:30 p.m., Dn. James' home
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Barksdale's
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., Divine Liturgy-Pt. 4
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., Parish Meal following
-Wednesday Teaching, 7:00 p.m., Fr. Alex
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Quarterly Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Paraklesis, 12:00 p.m.
-AWSJ Retreat 6:00 p.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.**

Upcoming Chrismation

November 13: Marshall and Kathryn McWhorter

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, November 13, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. John	HOMILY:	Fr. John
READER:	John Cameron	USHER:	Thomas Yadron
HOLY BREAD:	Judy Terry		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Cade, Pavel, James, Alex, Paul		
COFFEE HOUR:	Michael & Mindy Williams, Aaron & Melissa White		

***The NATIVITY FAST begins 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. 6: Paul the Confessor, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable Luke of Sicily; Paul the fool-for-Christ; Martyr Nicander; Venerable Barlaam of Khutyn; Herman, bishop of Kazan.

Nov. 7: Martyrs Thessalonkia in Amphipolis and Alexander of Thessalonika; the Thirty-three Martyrs of Melitene; Venerable Lazarus the wonder-worker of Magnesia; Venerable Gregory; Venerable Cyril of Novoezersk.

Nov. 8: The synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel and all the bodiless powers of heaven.

Nov. 9: Martyrs Onesiphoros and Porphyrios of Ephesos; Venerable Matrona of Constantinople; Theoktista of Lesvos; Simeon the Translator (Metaphrastes); Venerable Euthymios and Neophytos, founders of Docheiariou monastery on Athos; Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-worker.

Nov. 10: Apostles Olympas, Rodion, Sosipater, Tertios, Erastos and Quartos of the Seventy; Great-martyr Orestes of Cappadocia; Venerable Theostiriktos of Symbola.

Nov. 11: Martyrs Menas of Egypt, Victor of Damascus, Vincent and Stephanidos of Spain; Venerable Theodore the Studite; Blessed Maximos the fool-for-Christ; Martyr Stephen of Dechani, king of Serbia; Stephen Urosh and Princess Milica; Martin the Merciful, bishop of Tours.

Nov. 12: John the merciful, patriarch of Alexandria; Venerable Neilos the Faster Sinai; Venerable Neilos the myrrh-streaming of the Great Lavra on Athos; New-martyrs Sabbas and Nicholas of Constantinople.

Nov. 13: John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable-martyrs Damaskinos and Damian of the Great Lavra on Athos.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Parish Meeting – We will have a parish meeting this morning during coffee hour to present the final plans and cost for our highly anticipated project. We want to hear from you!! Please, make every effort to attend this meeting and participate in this important step in our community!

Sons of Thunder men's book club will meet this evening at 6:30 at Dn. James' home to discuss Christ the Conqueror of Hell by Met. Hilarion Alfeyev. All men are welcome.

Men's Quarterly Dinner – Our next Men's dinner will be Thurs., Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m. at Central BBQ on Summer. It will be the last dinner of the year before the fast begins!

Chili Cook Off Winners - Everyone had a wonderful time at the Fall Fest and Chili Cook Off! Thank you to all who made it possible and to all the participants in the chili contest. This year we even had kids judges as well as our traditional judges' panel. Our Kid Choice judges were Maggie Turner and Zoe van Drimmelen. Their division winners were – 1st: Jack Turner, 2nd: Chelsea Yadron, 3rd: Samira Murray. Our adult judges were Patty Harants, Ervin Romero, & Ethan van Drimmelen. Their winners were – 1st: Jack Turner, 2nd: Weston Leopold, 3rd: Joel Finley. Thank you again for a wonderful evening!

Young Adults – The Young Adults are beginning a Bible Study! Their first gathering has been rescheduled for Monday, November 7, 7:00 p.m. at Muddy's Midtown. Fr. Philip will lead the first session on the book of John. Join us!

Housekeeping – As we prepare for the Women's Retreat this weekend and for our Thanksgiving Basket Collection, please take time to look around the parish hall, room off the kitchen and the coat hooks in the hallway for items that may belong to you. Please take these items home or items that may have been left by you or for you by others. Thank you!!!

Thanksgiving Baskets



It is time again to collect for our Thanksgiving Baskets! This year we will be giving large baskets to 3 families for whom we have provided items for many years, as well as handing out special bags to the patrons of St. Brigid's Food Pantry. An online sign up for items needed may be found on SignUp Genius, <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0948aaac23a75-thanksgiving3>, the link may also be found on the St. John website, or you may sign up downstairs. No donation is too small or insignificant - do not feel as though you need to provide the entire quantity of an item listed. **Items may be left in the room off the kitchen.**

All contributions should be at the church no later than **Wednesday, November 16** at which time an inventory will be taken and those items still needed will be purchased. If you would rather make a monetary donation you may do so by indicating "Thanksgiving Baskets" on your check.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			October 30 – November 6	
Sunday	Galatians	1:11-19	Luke	8:41-56
Monday	Philippians	4:10-23	Luke	12:13-5, 22-31
Tuesday	Hebrews	2:2-10	Luke	10:16-21
Wednesday	Colossians	1:18-23	Luke	12:48-59
Thursday	Colossians	1:24-2:1	Luke	13:1-9
Friday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Luke	13:31-35
Saturday	2 Corinthians	9:6-11	Matthew	5:14-19
Sunday	Hebrews	7:26-8:2	Luke	10:25-37

Pray for our catechumens: Memphis - Ben Arthur; Marshall & Kathryn McWhorter.

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, 11/6: Nicholas Williams, Janna Knight
Monday, 11/7: Julia Spinolo
Tuesday, 11/8: Priscilla Neale, Chris Hodges
Archangel Michael: Michael Grossman, Michael Elliott, Michael Heisig, Mikael Santana, Michael Sanderlin, Michael Cameron, Michael Hill, Michael Yadron
Archangel Gabriel: Ben Hodges, Gabriel Martin
Saturday, 11/11: Amal Salloum
Anniversary: Keith & Sarah Parker

teen group

TODAY: Meeting at church, 5– 7
NEXT WEEK: Play practice, 5– 7
COMING UP: *November 18-19, Deanery Lock-In*

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – Be sure to attend this morning’s meeting to get the latest information! God bless you!!

Fund raising – Thank you for your continued support! If you would like to make any additional contributions to the master plan, feel free!!

Women of St. John ~ AWSJ

November 11-12 ~AWSJ Retreat
November 14 ~Book Club, 7:00 p.m., *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, Sarah Hodges’ home.
December 1 ~Women’s Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home

Library Lines

Monday another icon of the Mother of God is commemorated. The *Joyful Icon* (11/7) appeared on this date in 1795 in Moscow. Unfortunately we know nothing about its history. It looks very much like the Sweet Kissing icon, sometimes called *Child Leaping for Joy*. Read more about them and others in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and Prayers for Her Intercessions* (ATR ICO KHO).

Tuesday we commemorate the synaxis of the archangels (11/8). Synaxis means a coming together for a specific purpose. Liturgically, it usually describes an assembly to honor a saint connected with an event that has just been celebrated. This feast day is in November because we honor nine ranks of angels and this is the ninth month after March, when the New Year began in ancient times. We commemorate them on the eighth because the dread Day of Judgment is referred to as the Eighth Day when “the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him.” Matthew 25:31. See the St. John Library bulletin board for a brief explanation of their ranks, names and traditions. Read more about angels in *The Angels and Their Mission* (ROM DAN), *Denys, the Areopagite* (PAT COM DEN), *The Holy Angels* (CAT SPEC ALE), *Nicholas Meets His Guardian Angel* (KID CHU IAK), and *Guardian Angel, a Prayerful Contemplation for Each Day* (SPR LIV PUL).

Wednesday we commemorate one of the 20th century saints, St. Nektarios (11/9). *Saint Nektarios of Aegina*(KID STS NEC) devotes many pages to the childhood of the saint. The book lists his miracles and concludes with a hymn to him. *Repentance and Confession* (PAT NEK), written by him, is an instructive, easily read, short discourse on these subjects. It contains several pictures of him and liturgical items he used. See also *Saint Nektarios: the Saint of Our Century* (HAG NEK CHO) and *Story of the Holy Hierarch Nektarios the Wonderworker* (KID STS NEK).

This week we honor three lesser known saints who are given the title, “the Merciful”, which show their greatness through humility. St. Martin the Merciful (11/11) and bishop of Tours was a 1st century soldier. We don’t usually think of soldiers as being merciful. St. Martin’s connection to the army was only through duty because his father was in the army. When he asked to be discharged, he was accused of being a coward. His honor was restored and his request was later granted after standing unarmed in the front line. Once, in his travels, he saw a freezing beggar. Thereupon, he cut his cloak in half and gave a half to him. Christ appeared that night to St. Martin wearing his cloak. He is considered the father of monasticism in France, and many Western churches are dedicated to him including St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

St. John the Merciful (11/12) was a husband and father in 7th century Cyprus. After his family died, he became a monk. He was well loved and respected for his charity and wisdom. Once a beggar received alms from him and then changed clothes in effort to deceive him and receive more. The saint gave to him anyway, saying that perhaps Christ was testing him. Another time, while celebrating Liturgy he left the altar when he remembered a fellow clergyman who was angry with him. St. John was greatly loved for dealing with misdeeds by others with wisdom and mercy. Read more about him in *Road to Emmaus*, issue #43 fall 2010, p. 47.

Saturday, we commemorate another St. John. Blessed John the Hairy and Fool-for-Christ (11/12) lived during the 14th century in Rostov in what is now Azerbaijan. He was homeless, sometimes taking shelter with his spiritual father or one of the elderly widows. Although poor, he gave spiritual riches to those in need. He was called "the hairy" because of possessing a very full head of hair and "the Merciful" because of healings at his grave.