

From the Fathers (and others):

Spiritual knowledge is like a house built in the midst of secular and pagan knowledge, in which there is laid up, like a solid and well-secured chest, the knowledge of the inspired Scriptures and the inestimable riches they contain. Those who enter into the house will never at all be able to see those treasures unless this chest is opened for them. But it does not belong to human wisdom (cf. I Cor. 2:13) ever to be able to open it, so that the riches of the Spirit deposited in it remain unknown to all who are worldly.

St. Symeon the New Theologian

Prayers that are offered up to God remain behind closed doors if they do not contain love, for only love can open the doors for prayer. If your brother is angry with you, then the Lord also is angry with you. And if you have made peace with your brother below, then you have made peace with the Lord on high. If you receive your brother, then you also receive your Lord. Thus, make peace with the Lord in the person of those who are offended; give Him cause to be glad in the person of those who sorrow; visit Him in the person of those who are infirm; feed Him in the person of those who hunger.

St. Ephraim the Syrian

The Truth in a person says, 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you and pray for them who persecute you and say evil of you falsely' (Lk. 6:27). It is virtue therefore before men to bear with adversaries; but it is virtue before God to love them; because the only sacrifice which God accepts is that which, before His eyes, on the altar of good work, the flame of charity kindles.

St. Gregory the Great

Take up the weapons of righteousness: mindfulness of God, for this is the cause of all blessings; the light of spiritual knowledge, through which the soul awakens from its slumber and drives out of itself the darkness of ignorance; and true ardor, which makes the soul eager for salvation. Through mindfulness of God, you will always reflect on 'what is true, modest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, whatever is holy and deserving of praise' (Phil. 4:8); and in this way you will banish from yourself the pernicious evil of forgetfulness. Through the light of spiritual knowledge you will expel the destructive darkness of ignorance; and through your true ardor for all that is good you will drive out the godless laziness that enables evil to root itself in the soul.

St. Mark the Ascetic

"Wherefore also the Lord Jesus Christ, wishing to make us more strong against the temptations of the devil, fasted when about to contend with him, that we might know that we may in no other way overcome the enticements of evil."

St. Ambrose of Milan

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ December 10, 2017 ~
27th Sunday after Pentecost*

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

December 10, 2017 **27th Sunday after Pentecost**

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Lavinia Dumitrache**.

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

December 10 - 17 (Nativity Fast)

- Sunday** -Nativity Play practice, coffee hour
-Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
-Sons of Thunder, 6:30 p.m., Keith Parker's home
- 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
-Parish Council, 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Dinner, 5:30 p.m.,
-Teaching, 6:15 p.m., *The Advent Fast: Winter Pascha*
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Caroling at King's Daughters, 6:30 p.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 following liturgy
-Neighborhood Open House, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. John	HOMILY:	Fr. John
READER:	Matt Spinolo	USHER:	Matt Spinolo
HOLY BREAD:	Lori O'Brien		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zack, Nick, Elijah, Eli, Gabe		
COFFEE HOUR:	Bru & Thea Wallace, Ethan & Claire van D, Matt & Lynda Spinolo		

Upcoming Chrismations

December 17: Tom Ashworth

COMMEMORATIONS

December 10: Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eustrachos of Alexandria; Venerable Thomas of Bithynia; Joasaph, bishop of Belgorod; Angelina of Albania, mother of Blessed John, king of Serbia.

December 11: Venerable Daniel the Stylite, Luke the New Stylite, Noman and Leontios; Martyr Barsabbas of Persia.

December 12: Spyridon the Wonderworker, bishop of Trymithous; John, metropolitan of Zichnon.

December 13: Martyrs Eustrachios, Auxentios, Eugene, Mardarios, and Orestes at Sebaste; Virgin-martyr Lucia of Syracuse; Hieromartyr Gabriel, patriarch of Serbia; repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska, wonderworker of America.

December 14: Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios and Kallinikos of Apollonia; Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Hypatios and Arrianos of Alexandria.

December 15: Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Anthia; Venerable Paul of Latra; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh; Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga.

December 16: Prophet Haggai; Theophania the empress; Hieromartyr Modestos, archbishop of Jerusalem.

December 17: Prophet Daniel; The Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael; Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonder-worker; Avvakum the deacon.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			December 10 - 17
Sunday	Ephesians	6:10-17	Luke 13:10-17
Monday	Galatians	5:22-26; 6:1	Mark 8:11-21
Tuesday	Ephesians	5:8 – 19	John 10:9-16
Wednesday	Ephesians	6:10-17	Mark 8:30-34
Thursday	Ephesians	6:10-17	Mark 9:10-15
Friday	2 Timothy	1:8-18	Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-2
Saturday	Ephesians	1:16-23	Luke 14:1-11
Sunday	Colossians	3:4-11	Luke 14:16-24



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis –Tom Ashworth 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), 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



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.

Caroling at King’s Daughters and Sons Nursing Home - St. John will again be Caroling at King’s Daughters on Thursday, December 14. We will meet in the front lobby of the home at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us for a blessed evening!

Second Day of Christmas - Everyone is invited to St. Paul Skete in Grand Junction to celebrate the Second Day of Christmas, the Synaxis of the Theotokos, on Tuesday, December 26th with Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m., followed by a potluck meal – bring some Christmas “overabundance” (foods that don’t need heating) – and the singing of Christmas carols. Please try to let Mother Nektaria know by the morning of Wednesday, December 20th, if you plan to come so she can better prepare for the day.

Parish Council Update

The parish council will be meeting on Tuesday night at 6. Don’t forget the minutes and the budgets are in the folders in the old parish hall. This month the council will be discussing the purchase of the property next door, the upcoming annual meeting and planning for the future.

Nativity Play - Advent means “Preparing for Jesus’ birth.” The children of St. John (Level 1 atrium through 5th grade) will glorify Him with their traditional Nativity play on Sunday, December 17 after the liturgy.

Anniversary T-shirts – T-shirts are still available to purchase! You may pick one up in the old parish hall and leave a check either in the bookstore cash box or upstairs in the office. They make great Christmas gifts!

Master Plan updates

A NEW PROJECT – The owner of 1675 Tutwiler is selling the building and asked if the church was interested in purchasing the property. The Parish Council is working through all of the numbers and attempting to discern the best course of action. This week, an inspection was done which revealed that the property is in very good condition. Fr Philip met with a broker to discuss prices for renting each of the units. All of the information has been very helpful. If you have thoughts, please speak with a council member or Fr. Philip.

Fund raising – Our final debt amount is \$775,000. May God provide for us as we work to pay this off. If you would like to help towards the debt, you can speak to Fr. Philip. Thank you for all of your help to this point!

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 12/10:** Kevin Sanderlin
St. Angelina: Christi Yadron
- Tuesday, 12/12:** Justin Vanlandingham
St. Spyridon the Wonderworker: Rick Yadron, Kevin Sanderlin
- Wednesday, 12/13:** *St. Lucia: Lucy Hight, Ruby Ortwein*
- Thursday, 12/14:** Elinor Crenshaw
- Friday, 12/15:** Charles Ingram
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Upcoming at St. John

- Paraklesis** We will pray Paraklesis each Monday evening of Nativity, 6:00 p.m. (December 11, 18)
- December 14** Caroling at King's Daughters home, 6:30 p.m.
- December 17** Chrismation of Tom Ashworth
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Women of St. John Calendar

- Jan. 8** **AWSJ Book Club** – *Wicked River: The Mississippi When It Last Ran Wild* by Lee Sandlin
- Dec. 11** **Women's Teaching** - 10:00 a.m., location TBD. Please let Trish know if you would like to host!

BOOKSTORE NEWS



New in the Bookstore: We have several new titles available for purchase, as well as wall calendars and red prayer books.

50% off Sale Shelves – bottom shelves of the bookcase are 50% off

Library Lines

The Blessed Angelina (12/10) was a 16th century Serbian princess. She and her husband, Stephan, were the parents of St. John of Serbia. When the Turks threatened the family, they fled to Albania and then Italy. She lived as a monastic after the death of her husband and son. Their relics were incorrupt and many were healed by those who venerated them. Read about her life in *Married Saints of the Church* HAG - -MOS and in "Saint Angelina of Serbia" in *The Handmaiden*, fall 2005, on page 38.

Monday, we honor Ss. Daniel (12/11) and Luke who belong to a category of saints known as stylites, who are considered Fools for Christ. These men engaged in strict asceticism by praying and fasting by standing for years on pillars. The Venerable Daniel (12/11) received his name in an unusual manner. His mother had been barren for a number of years and promised to dedicate her son to God if He granted her petition for a child. When the boy was born, his parents decided that God should name him since he was a gift from Him. The child was taken to the monastery where the abbot randomly opened the Bible to the book of Daniel. He went to live there at age twelve and was visited frequently by his parents. He excelled in his ascetical efforts as predicted by St. Simeon the Stylite. When he ascended his pillar, common people and emperors came to him for healing and counsel. He died at the age of 80.

St. Spyridon (12/12) was born in Crete in the third century. Many stories are told about this man of God. At the First Ecumenical Council he showed the doctrine of the Trinity in this way. He squeezed a brick and instantly fire shot out of it, water dripped from his hands on the ground, and only dust remained in his hands. He proclaimed, "There was only one brick, but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God." Another story tells of his robbers planning to steal his sheep after night fall. After breaking into the pen, they found themselves unexplainably tied up there. Upon seeing them the next morning, St. Spyridon gave them the sheep and said, "Take them for your trouble, so that you did not spend a sleepless night in vain." Look for other stories about him in *Stories of Saints from the Prologue* (KID STS MAN)

St. Lucia's feast day (12/13) is celebrated by the Orthodox faithful and in the Scandinavian culture. Her suitor denounced her as a Christian because she spurned him for her vow of virginity. She was thrust through by a sword during the reign of Diocletian in 304. Read about the celebration of her feast day in *Lucia: Saint of Light* (KID STS LUC) and in *The Handmaiden*, fall 2004, p. 53

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✦