

From the Fathers (and others):

If every virtue comes into being through soul and body, and soul and body are the creation of God, how shall we not be utterly mad if we boast of accidental adornments of soul or body, and puff ourselves up, supported by our vanity as by a flimsy staff? It was with reference to this that the Apostle said: 'For what do you have which you did not receive' (I Cor. 4:7)? Did you create yourself? And if you received from God both soul and body, from which and in which and through which every virtue comes into being, 'why do you boast as if you did not receive' (I Cor. 4:7)? For it is the Lord Who has given you these things.

St. Hesychios the Priest

There is someone I love, even though I don't approve of what he does. There is someone I accept, though some of his thoughts and actions revolt me. There is someone I forgive, though he hurts the people I love the most. That person is me.

CS Lewis

We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive.

C. S. Lewis

Troubles are usually the brooms and shovels that smooth the road to a good man's fortune; and many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away hunger.

St Basil the Great

Love Christ and put nothing before His Love. Christ is Everything. He is the source of life, the ultimate desire. He is everything. Everything beautiful is in Christ.

St Porphyrios

Before the wheel of time stops in my life, have mercy on me. Before the wind of death blows and diseases appear in my body, have mercy on me. Before the majestic sun in the heights becomes darkened for me, have mercy on me. Before the trumpet sounds, spare Thy servants and have mercy, O Lord Jesus.

St Ephraim the Syrian

If it is merely habit that sends you to the Physician, you will not receive healing. The all-merciful One wants love from the one who comes to Him, and if the supplicant brings love and tears he receives freely the gift of forgiveness.

St Ephraim the Syrian

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ December 17, 2017 ~
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers*

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

www.stjohnmemphis.org

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

December 17, 2017

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Lori O'Brien**.

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 17 - 24 (Nativity Fast)

- Sunday** -Nativity Play following liturgy
- 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, 7:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy, Pt. 2 – meet in nave
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Dinner, 5:30 p.m.,
-Teaching, 6:15 p.m.,
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Chanter Workshop, 6:00 p.m.
- Friday** -Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -**Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
-**Orthros, 9:15 p.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy for Nativity, 10:30 p.m.**

DIVINE LITURGY – Paramon of Nativity

Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Alex
READER:	Jack Turner	USHER:	Ervin Romero
HOLY BREAD:	Ben Arthur		
ALTAR SERVERS:	James, Mark, Alex, volunteer		
COFFEE HOUR:	Mitch and Sandy Childress, Sue Brownlow		

DIVINE LITURGY – Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 p.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	Rod Ratliff		
HOLY BREAD:	Reem Mansour		
ALTAR SERVERS:			

Upcoming Chrismations

Today: Tom Ashworth

COMMEMORATIONS

December 17: Prophet Daniel; The Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael;

Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonder-worker; Avvakum the deacon.

December 18: Martyrs Sebastian and Zoe of Rome, and those with them.

December 19: Sunday before the Nativity of Christ (The Holy Fathers); Martyrs Boniface and Areos of Cilicia; Martyrs Eutychios of Thessalonika; Venerable Aglaida the Roman; Boniface of Ferentino.

December 20: Hieromartyr Ignatios the God-bearer, bishop of Antioch; New-martyr John of Thasos; Daniel II of Serbia.

December 21: Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia; Martyr Themistokles of Myra in Lycia; Peter, metropolitan of Moscow and all Russia.

December 22: Great-martyr Anastasia and her teacher the Martyr Chrysogonos.

December 23: Ten martyrs of Crete; New-martyr Nicholas; Venerable Nahum of Ochrid, enlightener of the Bulgarians.

December 24: Venerable-martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her; Martyrs Achaikos and Basillia; New-martyr Ahmed of Constantinople.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			December 17-24
Sunday	Colossians	3:4-11	Luke 14:16-24
Monday	Colossians	3:4-11	Mark 9:42-50, 10:1
Tuesday	Hebrews	4:1-13	Mark 10:2-12
Wednesday	Hebrews	10:32-38	Mark 9:33-41
Thursday	Hebrews	7:1-6	Mark 10:17-28
Friday	Hebrews	7:18-25	Mark 10:24-32
Saturday	Galatians	3:8-12	Luke 13:19-29
Sunday	Hebrews	11:9-10, 32-40	Matt 1:1-25



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis –Lucas Whatley, 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



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 following liturgy this morning.

Church School – Church school will not meet on December 24. They will meet on December 31.

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

For the minutes of the recent parish council meeting as well as the financial statements, please see the notebook downstairs. In addition to approving the persuing of the purchase of 1675 Tutwiler, the council discussed forming a 2018 Strategic Planning Committee. More information will be available in the New Year.

Annual Parish Meeting! On Sunday, January 7, we will have our annual parish meeting. Along with all of the annual updates, the parish will be voting on the purchase of the neighboring property. Mark your calendars and plan to be present for this important event!

Year-end contributions to the church – Sunday, December 31 is the last day one can make contributions which are tax deductible for the year 2017, please be sure to get your gifts and contributions to the church before the end of that day.

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!

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 12/18:** Brian Boone
St. Zoe: Zoe van Drimmelen
- Tuesday, 12/20:** Isaac George
- Thursday, 12/22:** Amal Rustom, Weston Sanderlin

Master Plan updates

St Raphael Hall – Efforts are being made to continue to work on the sound in the hall. An outside company is stepping in to do tests and make recommendations for how to help. Stay tuned in the new year for a comprehensive plan!

A NEW PROJECT – Many have asked for more details on the purchase of 1675 Tutwiler. The property appraised for \$327,000 and the owner is willing to sell it to the church for \$299,000. According to our conversations with the bank, property management companies and other knowledgeable resources, the projected rental income of the property should cover our annual expenses. May God continue to provide wisdom and discernment as we move forward!

Fund raising – Our final debt amount for the new construction is \$775,000. Thank you for all of your help! Any additional contributions to the mortgage are appreciated!



As is our tradition, we will have a light celebration following Divine Liturgy on December 24. The church will provide deli trays for sandwiches as well as drinks. We ask that those who are able bring a simple side dish or dessert to share. Please consider bringing dishes which do not require clean up - disposable pans are great! Also, be sure to take your dish home with you that night. We would like to get everyone home at a reasonable time with as easy of a cleanup as possible!

Women of St. John Calendar

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

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 ✦

Library Lines

Today we honor perhaps the richest group on the Church's list of commemorated saints. It's the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the ancestors in the flesh of Christ, and it is a powerful reminder to us that He is fully man and fully God.

In keeping with this theme of the Holy Forefathers, today we commemorate the Prophet Daniel (12/17) and the Three Holy Youths. They are familiar to many of us because they are frequent subjects of children's Bible stories. Remember Daniel in the lion's den and the fiery furnace? It is amazing that all of these stories and events that we remember from childhood are "ever-occurring" and woven into the Liturgy, music and life of the Church. The three holy youths are mentioned repeatedly during services throughout the year including Lent and even in the marriage service. Read about these events in *Children's Bible Reader* (KID BIB GBS) and *Daniel and the Lion* (KID STS DAN). And, look for their icons in our nave.

John of Kronstadt (10/19 & 12/20) is a 20th century saint who was glorified by the church just over twenty years ago! Check out our library's books by and about him: *My Life in Christ* (PAT JOH), *On Prayer* (PAT/JOH), *Spiritual Counsels* (PAT JOH), *The Life of Righteous Father John the Wonderworker of Kronstadt* (KID/JOH), *Season of Repentance* (PAT JOH), and *A Spiritual Portrait: St. John of Kronstadt*, (HAG JOH CON). Look also in *Road to Emmaus*, the winter 2014 #56 issue.

Wednesday, we commemorate St. Ignatius the God-Bearer (12/20), a disciple of our own patron, St. John the Evangelist. Tradition tells us that Christ held the young saint in His arms when He said, "Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." It is also said that he began the practice of antiphonal singing in church after seeing a vision of angels alternately giving their praises to God. Perhaps he is best known for actively desiring to die for Christ. On the road to martyrdom in Rome, he continually repeated the name of Jesus. When asked about this he said that the Name was written on his heart. St. Ignatius was devoured by lions who left only his heart and some bones. The pagans cut open his heart and saw "Jesus Christ" in gold letters. Learn more about him in *Fathers of the Church* (HAG - - - WUE), *Pillars of the Church* (HAG - - - GRE), and in *For Christ and the Church: St. Ignatius of Antioch* (PAT COM IGN).

St. Juliana (12/21) was one of many women saints who refused a pagan suitor and dedicated her life to Christ. Her father handed her over to torture in the presence of a large crowd, many of whom professed Christ and joined her in receiving martyrs' crowns. According to the OCA website, she was the subject of an Anglo-Saxon poem which was penned by Cynewulf in the 8th century.

Friday, we honor St. Anastasia (12/22). Anastasia was forced into marriage with a pagan. He locked her in their home after learning that she donned a disguise and visited Christians who had been imprisoned because of their faith. After her husband's death, she gave away her money and visited and nursed the Christians who were in prison in several cities. She received the name, *Deliverer from Potions* because she healed many from the effects of poisons. She was arrested, starved, and martyred by being burned alive. Read more about her in *The Encyclopedia of the Major Saints and Fathers* (HAG - - - ELE) and in *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG - - - MOS).