

From the Fathers (and others):

For him who is perfect in love and has reached the summit of dispassion there is no difference between his own or another's, or between Christians and unbelievers, or between slave and free, or between male and female. But because he has risen above the tyranny of the passions and has fixed his attention on the single nature of man, he looks on all in the same way and shows the same disposition to all. For in him there is neither Greek nor Jew, male nor female, bond not free, but Christ who 'is all, and in all' (Col. 3:11; cf. Gal. 3:28).

St. Maximos the Confessor

"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

Know this, that as we pray the holy angels encourage us and stand at our side, full of joy and at the same time interceding on our behalf.

Abba Evagrius the Solitary

"It is much better to think that our death will come sooner than the end of the world, rather than that the end of the world will come before our death."

St. Seraphim of Sarov

Make sure that you do not limit your prayer merely to a particular part of the day. Turn to prayer at any time.

St. John Chrysostom

Prayer for our enemies is the very highest summit of self-control.

St John Chrysostom

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ December 18, 2016 ~
Genealogy Sunday*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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MEMPHIS, TN 38107
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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 18, 2016 Genealogy Sunday

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Stephanie Harants**.

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

Dec. 18-25 (Nativity Fast)

- Sunday** -Nativity Play
- Teen Group – Gingerbread House making
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Advent Paraklesis, 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- 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.
- Friday** -Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -*Orthros, 9:00 a.m. (*note time change)
-***Paramon of Nativity, 10:00 a.m. (*note time change)**
-Orthros for Nativity, 9:15 p.m.
-**Divine Liturgy for Nativity, 10:30 p.m.**
- Sunday** -No Services

Divine Liturgy

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

PRIEST: Fr. John

HOMILY: Fr. John

HOLY BREAD: Trish Ratliff

READER: Rod Ratliff

ALTAR SERVERS:

DIVINE LITURGY for the Nativity of our Lord

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

PRIEST: Fr. Philip

HOMILY: Fr. Philip

READER: Jack Turner

USHER: John Sneed

HOLY BREAD: Lavinia Dumitrache

ALTAR SERVERS:

CLEAN UP CREW: Aaron Martin, David Twombly, Don Calcote, Gary Karnaghon, Keith Parker, Larry Ichniowski

***The NATIVITY FAST continues!!** 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

- 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.
- December 25:** The Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS			December 18-25	
Sunday	Hebrews	11:9-10, 32-40	Matthew	1:1-25
Monday	1 Timothy	5:1-10	Mark	9:42-10:1
Tuesday	Hebrews	10:32-38	Mark	9:33-41
Wednesday	1 Timothy	5:22-6:11	Mark	10:11-16
Thursday	1 Timothy	6:17-21	Mark	10:17-27
Friday	Hebrews	1:1-12	Matthew	1:18-25
Saturday	Galatians	3:8-12	Luke	13:19-29
Sunday	Galatians	4:4-7	Matthew	2:1-12



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 Drobashovsky, Maria Bellaflores, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Nativity Play – The children of St. John will perform their annual Nativity Play for us all immediately following liturgy. Please stay in the nave to enjoy it with us!

Men of St. John – The following men are listed for Clean Up duty following the Nativity Feast. Please let Trish know if you are unable to help that night. The complete list of assignments for can be found on the website under “Online Sign Ups & Assignments.”

Aaron Martin, David Twombly, Don Calcote, Gary Karnaghon, Keith Parker, and Larry Ichniowski.

Christmas Carols at St. Paul Skete - Mother Nektaria invites everyone to St. Paul Skete in Grand Junction to celebrate the Second Day of Christmas, the Synaxis of the Theotokos, on Monday, December 26th. Fr. Philip will serve 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 21st, if you plan to come so she can better prepare for the day.

Wednesday Night Teaching – Fr. John will continue his series on the Orthodox approach to Scripture.

Year end contributions to the church – Saturday, December 31 is the last day one can make contributions which are tax deductible for the year 2016, please be sure to get your gifts and contributions to the church before the end of that day.

Feast of St. Basil – As is our tradition, we will have a finger-food potluck following Great Vespers celebrating St. Basil on Wednesday, December 31. Please join us!

The **Sons of Thunder** book club will meet at 6:30 on January 22nd at David Twombly's home. They will be discussing the book *Mother Maria Skobtsova: Essential Writings*. All men are welcome.

Coffee Hour – The dates for the first quarter of 2017 can now be found on the St. John website under Parish – Online Sign Ups and Assignments. This is an excellent way to serve our parish and fellow parishioners!

Save the date! Dinner & A Show 2017 is scheduled for Friday, February 10th. Please make sure to mark your calendars! We are in need of coordinators for the following: Dessert Auction, Meal Planning, and Decorating. If you are interesting in being a part of the coordinating committee, please contact Meribeth Harvey at meribethsharvey@gmail.com.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 12/18:** Brian Boone
St. Zoe of Rome: Zoe van Drimmelen
Righteous Sarah: Sarah Finley
Joseph, the Patriarch: Joe Hodges
- Tuesday, 12/20:** Murphy George
- Thursday, 12/22:** Weston Leopold, Amal Rustom

Nativity Celebration

As is our tradition, we will have a light celebration after Divine Liturgy on December 24. The church will provide deli trays for sandwiches as well as drinks, but please **bring your favorite sides and desserts to share!**



Special Services for the remainder of the fast & the Nativity season through Theophany (1)

Monday, December 19

Paraklesis, 6:00 PM

Friday, December 23

Royal Hours, 7:30 AM

Vespers, 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 24

Orthros, 9:00 AM (*note time change)

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 10:00 AM (*note time change)

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Orthros for Nativity, 9:15 PM

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for Nativity, 10:30 PM

Saturday, December 31

Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Basil, 7:00 PM (2)

Thursday, January 5

Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 5

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 6:00 PM,
followed by the First Great Sanctification of Water
(*Katalysis for wine & oil*)

Friday, January 6

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:00 AM

- (1) Remember that December 24 and January 5 are fast days. There is NO fasting from December 25 through January 4.
- (2) There will be a finger food potluck following Vespers – please bring something to share.

Library Lines

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.

During Advent we have commemorated several events in the life of the Theotokos. Her Entrance into the Temple (11/21), her Conception(12/9) and the Nativity of Christ(12/25). These and others are depicted in one of St. John Library's most popular books. *The Story of Mary the Mother of God* (KID STS PAP) by Dorrie Papademetriou is a beautifully illustrated book for young children. The first half of the short book is devoted to Sts. Anna and Joachim, their desire for a child and the early life of the Theotokos. The book continues with the Annunciation, birth, and life of Christ. Look on top of the reference section in St. John Library for this book and many others about her life.

The life of the Theotokos is shown to us in much greater detail in another one of our most informative books, *The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos*. This reference book gives us icons, hymns and commentary from the fathers on her life, her significance in the Kingdom of God and her place in the Church. Since she is the Mother of God in the flesh and is pivotal in our salvation, every event, person and aspect of Jesus's life, death, resurrection and events before and after Pentecost are referenced. It's user friendly because it is arranged chronologically and the table of contents is very detailed.

Tuesday 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.

Thursday 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 he 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).