

From the Fathers (and others):

... we must most carefully look after the field of our heart, lest the tares of evil, slothfulness, luxuriousness, self-indulgence, unbelief, avarice, envy, hatred, and others, should grow within it; we must daily weed the field of our heart, at least, at morning and evening prayers, and refresh it by salutary sighs, as by healthful winds, and water it with abundant tears, as by early and late rain. Besides this, we must by every means implant in the field of our heart the seeds of the virtues, faith, hope in God, and love for God and our neighbor, fertilize it with prayer, patience, good works, and not for a single hour remain in complete idleness and inactivity, for in times of idleness and inactivity the enemy zealously sows his tares. 'While men slept, the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way' (Mt. 13:25)."

St. John of Kronstadt

Have no concern for money. Love your wife more than you love your own life. Never be at odds, but be true. Prefer her company at home above being out. Esteem and admire her publicly, and advise her patiently. Pray together, go to church, and discuss the readings and prayers. If your marriage is like this, your perfection will rival the holiest of monks.

St John Chrysostom

To take up one's cross means to accept without complaint everything unpleasant, painful, sad, difficult and oppressive that may happen to us in life. In other words, to bear all laughter, scorn, weariness, sorrow and annoyance from others; to bear all pverty, misfortune, illness, without regarding yourself as offended.

St Innocent of Alaska

The Church conquers as she is attacked; she prevails when she is plotted against, she becomes more lustrous as she is insulted; she receives injuries and wounds but does not collapse; she fights but is not defeated; she is tossed about by the waves but does not sink; she passes through storms but is not shipwrecked.

St John Chrysostom

To be a Christian is to be a traveler... We are on a journey through the inward space of the heart, a journey not measured by the hours of our watch or the days of the calendar, for it is a journey out of time into eternity.

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



*~ December 31, 2017 ~
Sunday after Nativity*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
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His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS

Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers

Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman

Associate Pastor

Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul

Assistant Pastor

V. 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

Sunday after Nativity

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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 31 – January 7

Sunday -Great Vespers for St. Basil, 7:00 p.m., potluck to follow
Monday -
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
 -Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Crosstown
 -Catechumen/Inquirers Class, Divine Liturgy, Pt. 3
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
 -Dinner, 5:30 p.m.,
 -Teaching, 6:15 p.m., January feasts
 -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.
 -Divine Liturgy for Paramon of Theophany, 6:00 p.m.
 -Great Sanctification of the Water
Saturday -Divine Liturgy for Theophany, 10:00 a.m.
 -Blessing of the Waters at the MS River, 12:30 p.m.
 -Parish Lunch
Sunday -**Orthros and Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
 -**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

DIVINE LITURGY – Paramon of Theophany **Friday, January 5, 6:00 p.m.**

PRIEST: Fr. Philip **HOMILY:** Fr. Philip
READER: David Twombly
HOLY BREAD:
ALTAR SERVERS:

DIVINE LITURGY – Theophany **Saturday, January 6, 10:00 a.m.**

PRIEST: Fr. Alex **HOMILY:** Fr. Alex
READER:
HOLY BREAD:
ALTAR SERVERS:

DIVINE LITURGY **Sunday, January 7, 10:00 a.m.**

PRIEST: Fr. Philip **HOMILY:** Fr. Philip
READER: John Cameron **USHER:** Bill Harter
HOLY BREAD:
ALTAR SERVERS:

COMMEMORATIONS

December 31: Venerable Melania the younger of Rome; Hieromartyr Zotikos the friend of orphans; Venerable Theophylact of Ochrid.

January 1: The Circumcision in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; New-martyr Peter of the Peloponnesos.

January 2: Sylvester, Pope of Rome; Cosmas, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Theogenes of Parium; Martyrs Sergios and Theopistos; New-martyr Zorzis; Venerable Theodote and Neilos; Repose of Venerable Seraphim of Sarov; Righteous Juliana the Merciful, of Lazarevsk.

January 3: Martyr Gordios of Cappadocia; Prophet Malachi; Venerable Thomaidos; Venerable Genevieve of Paris.

January 4: The synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles; Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily; Venerable-martyrs Euthymios and his twelve companions of Vatopedi monastery on Athos; Venerable-martyr Onouphrios the deacon of Hilandar monastery on Athos; Eustathios, archbishop of Serbia.

January 5: Martyrs Theopemptos the bishop of Nicomedia and Theonas; Venerable Syncletica of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Romanos of Athos.

January 6: The Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ. Venerable Makarios Makris of Vatopedi monastery on Athos and Pantocratoros monastery in Constantinople.

January 7: The synaxis of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; Julian the deacon; Hieromartyr Romanos; New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; Venerable Brannock of Braunton.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	2 Timothy	4:5-8
Monday	Colossians	2:8-12
Tuesday	Hebrews	5:4-10
Wednesday	1 Timothy	3:13-16; 4:1-5
Thursday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16
Friday	1 Corinthians	9:19-27
Saturday	Titus	2:11-14; 3:4-7
Sunday	Acts	19:1-8

December 31 – January 7

Mark	1:1-8
Luke	2:20-21, 40-52
John	3:1-15
Matt	3:1-6
John	1:18-28
Luke	3:1-18
Matt	3:13-17
John	1:29-34

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.



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

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 pursuing 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.

Theophany House Blessings – Be sure to sign up in the parish hall for the times and days which are most convenient for your family to have your home blessed by one of the priests.

Mississippi River Blessing – Mark your calendars for January 6! Following Divine Liturgy that morning, we will again bless the waters at the Mississippi River along with Annunciation Greek Orthodox. We will come back to the parish to share lunch together.

Wednesday Meal Pick Up – The sign up for Wednesday Meal Pick Ups for the first quarter is now on the church website; parish-online signups-Wednesday Meal. If there is a specific restaurant you would like to pick up from, please put the name in the comment section when you sign up.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 12/31:** Mikael Santana
St. Melania: Melanie Stanek
- Monday, 1/1:** Eric Surber
St. Basil: Fr. Basil, Bill Harter, Bill Stanek, Eric Surber, Adam Sanderlin
- Tuesday, 1/2:** *St. Juliana of Lazaravo: Sarah Parker, Claire van Drimmelen, Giulianna Yzaguirre*
St. Seraphim of Sarov: Janna Knight, Karen Wells, Chris Utley
- Friday, 1/5:** Kendall Ichniowski
- Saturday, 1/6:** Anniversary: Sean & Melissa Paden

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!



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

Sunday, December 24

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Orthros for Nativity, 9:15 PM

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

Sunday, December 31

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

Friday, January 5

Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, January 6

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 10:00 AM

Blessing of the Mississippi River with Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church following liturgy
Lunch at the parish

- (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

We begin the new year by honoring a heroine for young women in our Church. Righteous Juliana of Lazarevo (1/2) lived a devout childhood. After her parents' death she remained steadfast in the Faith and in her love and care for the poor, even though her guardians mocked her. Her pious life drew the attention of the village owner, and they married. Her in-laws saw a treasure in her, and young Juliana was given charge of their household. She spent her life in prayer and caring for the poor and sick. After the death of two of her six children, she longed for the monastic life but remained in the world to care for her family and all who crossed her path. One of her sons wrote the about her life of selfless love, asceticism and visits from St. Nicholas. She was buried in 1604 next to her husband and daughter in the village church. She is the patron of several at St. John, and her icon is in the nave above the Myrrh-bearing women.

Wednesday, we remember the Prophet Malachi (1/3), known as the “seal of the prophets” because he is the last of the Old Testament prophets. He had the appearance of an angel, and one was his companion and reiterated his prophecies. It is thought by some that he lived during the lifetimes of Ezra and Nehemiah. He confronted problems of intermarriage between Jews and pagans and of infidelity with their Hebrew wives. This and the negligent offering of tithes, he saw as signs of weakening devotion to family and God. He prophesied the coming of the Forerunner and Christ, and also the Last Judgment. The Book of *Malachi* was written about 440 B.C.

Monday, we commemorated the synaxis of the Theotokos (12/26). Thursday (1/4) the synaxis honors the Seventy, men who Christ appointed to travel two by two to the cities He would visit. Some of them, Sts. Mark and Luke the Evangelists, Timothy, Barnabas and Prochorus, are familiar to us; most are not. They all have their own feast days, but the Church commemorates them all together today.

Theophany (1/6) was anciently celebrated as the most important feast day besides Pascha. It even predates Christmas as a major feast. Read about its significance and history as a feast in the following St. John Library books: *Christ in the Old Testament* (KID BIB HOP), *Orthodox Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary* (CAT CAL WYB), *Theophany of our Lord* (KID CHU ELA) and *Sermons on the Major Holy Days of the Orthodox Church* (CAT CAL CON).

See the display area for these articles on Theophany and some customs, including recipes, surrounding its celebration: “Blessing the Waters of America: the Theophany Traditions of American Orthodox Churches” *The Handmaiden*, fall 2002, p. 17; “Diving In”, *The Handmaiden* fall 2001, p. 52; “Dragons on the Waters” *The Handmaiden*, fall 2002, p. 57; and “Celebrating the Baptism of Christ” *The Handmaiden*, fall 2002, p. 60.

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., Sarah Hodges’ home |