

### **From the Fathers (and others):**

In this we see the wondrous virtue of the Lord: that the power dwelling in His body should communicate to perishable things the efficacy to heal, and that the divine activity should issue forth even from the hem of His garment. For God is not perceptible by the senses, to be enclosed within a body. The assumption of a body did not limit the nature of His power; but for our redemption His power took upon it the frailty of our body.

St. Hilary of Poitiers

It is a fearful thing to hate whom God has loved. To look upon another – his weaknesses, his sins, his faults, his defects – is to look upon one who is suffering. He is suffering from negative passions, from the same sinful human corruption from which you yourself suffer. This is very important: do not look upon him with the judgmental eyes of comparison, noting the sins you assume you'd never commit. Rather, see him as a fellow sufferer, a fellow human being who is in need of the very healing of which you are in need. Help him, love him, pray for him, do unto him as you would have him do unto you."

St Tikhon of Zadonsk

Through contemplation one comes to understand the changeable nature of visible created things: how they derive from the earth and return again to the earth. All human affairs, all that does not exist after death, are vanity. Riches vanish. Glory leaves us. When death comes, all such things disappear.

St. Peter of Damaskos

The time of separation does not grieve him who frees himself from everything earthly...The righteous, the holy, and the ascetics rejoice at the hour of death and separation, having the great labors of their asceticism, vigils and prayers, fasts and tears, sackcloth and the subjection of their bodies to hardship before their eyes. Their souls leap up, for they are prepared to go out of their bodies for their rest."

St. Ephraim the Syrian

... alas for the soul that is unaware of its wounds and that in its endless sinfulness and obduracy does not think it has anything evil within it: the good doctor will not visit it or heal it, since it does not seek Him out or have any concern for its wounds, because it thinks it is well and in good health. As the Lord said: 'It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick' (Mt. 9:12).

St. Makarios of Egypt

## **St. John Orthodox Church**

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*~ December 4, 2016 ~  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TN 38107  
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[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

[www.orthodoxtupelo.com](http://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 4, 2016

### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Epistle: Galatians 3:23-4:5**

**Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Margaret McKelroy**.

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. 4 - 11 (Nativity Fast)**

- Sunday** -Nativity Play practice during coffee hour  
-Soup Kitchen, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church  
-Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Great Vespers for St. Nicholas, 6:00 p.m.  
-Teen St. Nicholas Play following Vespers
- Tuesday** -**Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas, 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.  
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela's home
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Paraklesis, 12:00 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.**

### DIVINE LITURGY

**Monday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.**

PRIEST: Fr. John HOMILY: Fr. John  
HOLY BREAD: Caitlyn Maas  
ALTAR SERVERS: Zach and Eli  
COFFEE HOUR: Claire van Drimmelen, Marjo Labonte

### DIVINE LITURGY

**Sunday, December 11, 10:00 a.m.**

PRIEST: Fr. Basil HOMILY: Fr. Basil  
READER: Rod Ratliff USHER: John Sneed  
HOLY BREAD: Lavinia Dumitrache  
ALTAR SERVERS: Cade, Pavel, James, Alex, Paul  
COFFEE HOUR: Mitch & Sandy Childress, Stephanie Harants, Karen Bell

**COMMEMORATIONS**

**December 4:** Great-martyr Barbara of Heliopolis in Syria; Venerable John of Damascus; Martyr Juliana; New-hieromartyr Seraphim, bishop of Phanar in Greece.

**December 5:** Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified; Martyr Diogenes; Venerable Nektarios of Iagri Kelli and Philotheos of Karyes on Athos; Venerable-martyrs from the kellia of Karyes on Athos; Gurius, missionary bishop of Kazan; Venerable Nektarios of Bitolj.

**December 6:** Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; New-martyr Nicholas of Karamania in Asia Minor.

**December 7:** Ambrose, Bishop of Milan; Martyr Athenodoros of Mesopotamia; Venerable Gregory, founder of Gregoriou monastery on Athos; Venerable Gerasimos; Venerable Anthony of Sia and Neilos of Stolb Island; Venerable Philothea of Thrace.

**December 8:** Patapios the Righteous of Thebes; Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus; Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Crispos, Caesar and Epaphroditos of the Seventy; Martyr Parthenios.

**December 9:** The Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos by Righteous Anna.

**December 10:** Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugephos 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.



**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**December 4 - 11**

Sunday	Galatians	3:23-4:5	Luke	13:10-17
Monday	Galatians	5:22-6:2	Matthew	11:27-30
Tuesday	Hebrews	13:17-21	Luke	6:17-23
Wednesday	2 Thessalonians	2:1-12	Luke	21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24
Thursday	2 Thessalonians	2:13:3:5	Luke	21:28-33
Friday	Galatians	4:22-27	Luke	8:16-21
Saturday	Galatians	1:3-10	Luke	13:19-29
Sunday	Colossians	3:4-11	Luke	14:16-24



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

**Financial Pledges for 2017** – Many thanks to those of you who have returned your financial pledge for the coming year. If you have not done so, we still need yours. As we try to plan the future of our parish, this information is critical to our making reasonable plans. Since we are undertaking a sizeable building project, communicating your financial commitment to the ongoing activities of our parish is most especially important. Please try to have yours returned by December 1.

**Wednesday Night Teaching** –Fr. John will begin a series on the Orthodox approach to Scripture.

**Nativity Play** - Advent means “Get Ready” for Christ to be born. The children of St. John will glorify Him with their traditional Nativity play on Sunday, December 18 after the liturgy. Our first practice will be TODAY during coffee hour. Future rehearsals will be 11<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour and Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. before Vespers.

**Nave Cleaning** – We will prepare the nave for the great feast of Nativity by having a cleaning on Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. There will be jobs for all ages and abilities, so please come to assist as you are able.

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.

**Calendar Update** – *Daily Lives, Miracles and Wisdom of the Saints* spiral bound books can be found downstairs in the bookstore for those who would like to purchase them. Cost is \$18.

Additionally, this year we have ordered new wall calendars from Annunciation Press! These new calendars feature a beautiful icon each month, denote fast days as well as daily readings and commemorations. Cost is \$3.



**St. Nicholas Great Vespers**

We will pray great vespers Monday evening, December 5, for St. Nicholas at 6:00 p.m. Following vespers, our teens will again present a short play on the life of the saint. As is our tradition, we will collect gifts from the children for the MIFA Christmas store. **Gifts should be new and not wrapped.** Refreshments will follow for all, including what we hope will be a number of guests. **Please bring fasting-friendly finger foods (cookies, pretzels) to share.**

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

<b>Sunday, 12/4:</b>	<i>St. John of Damascus: Alex Mansour</i>
<b>Monday, 12/5:</b>	Keith Parker
<b>Tuesday, 12/6:</b>	<i>St. Nicholas of Myra: Nicholas Hill, Nicholas Williams, Weston Sanderlin, Larry Ichniowski, Soren Ortwein</i>
<b>Wednesday, 12/7:</b>	Mindy Williams, Mitchell Childress
<b>Thursday, 12/8:</b>	Angela Leopold, Andrew Mitchell
<b>Friday, 12/9:</b>	Charlie Harvey
<b>Saturday, 12/10:</b>	Kevin Sanderlin <i>St. Angelina: Christi Yadron</i>

## Master Plan Updates

**Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc.** – There were subcontractors here this week inspecting the building to prepare their bids. We are continuing to move forward and hope to hear about an official start date very soon. May our Holy Father Raphael pray for a successful completion of this project!

**Fund raising** – Thank you for your help thus far!! Since our parish meeting we have received a number of building fund pledges. Thanks be to God!! If you would still like to fill one out, there are pledge cards for the building fund available downstairs. Every little bit helps!

## Upcoming at St. John

<b>Enrollment</b>	December 11: Chelsea Yadron & Gabriel
<b>Churching</b>	December 11: Edmund Knight
<b>Paraklesis</b>	We will pray Paraklesis each Monday evening of Nativity, 6:00 p.m. (December 12, 19 – 6:00 p.m.)
<b>December 4</b>	Soup Kitchen at First Presbyterian downtown, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
<b>December 5</b>	Great Vespers for St. Nicholas, 5:50 p.m. with Teen St. Nicholas play to follow – <i>We will be collecting unwrapped toys for the MIFA store following the play</i>
<b>December 13</b>	Caroling at King’s Daughters home, 6:30 p.m.

## Library Lines

In December we honor several Old Testament saints, including the Minor Prophets. Thursday we honor the Prophet Nahum (12/1). He is perhaps the least known of the Minor Prophets. The short book is considered to be a masterpiece of literature; partially because of his powerful, short sentences and word-pictures. He treats his readers with alliteration and rare idioms. His writing did not call Israel to repentance nor condemn the nation for her infidelity; however, he prophesied the destruction of Nineveh after the city forgot God’s warning 200 years ago from Jonah. His intercessions are asked for those with mental illnesses, perhaps in keeping with his name which means “full of consolation or comfort.”

Saint Myrope (12/2) lived in the third century. Her devotion and loyalty led to her martyrdom and, as frequently occurs, her own martyrdom led to the salvation and martyrdom of others. After a pious soldier, Isidore, was killed for his faith, guards were posted to keep Christians from taking his body. Under darkness, she removed and buried it. The guards were threatened with torture for failing to perform their duty. Myrope had compassion on the condemned men and admitted taking the body, and she was then martyred. One of her guards related her story to a priest and was baptized and later was martyred himself.

The Prophet Zephaniah (12/3) is known also by the name Sophronios. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and helped the boy king Josiah destroy idol worship. He is often shown as resembling St. John the Theologian. He and the Prophet Habakkuk (12/2) were both descended from the tribe of Simeon. Habakkuk prophesied the Babylonian captivity and the return to Jerusalem. During this period, he lived in Arabia. However, while taking food to workers in the fields, he was miraculously transported to the Prophet Daniel in Babylon and fed him there. We also honor him during Holy Week when we sing in the Paschal canon, “Foreseeing your divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: ‘Thou shattered the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.’ “Read more about the Minor Prophets in *Christ in His Saints* (HAG - - - REA).

## **Women of St. John – AWSJ**

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| <b>December 8</b>  | ~Women’s Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home   |
| <b>December 11</b> | ~AWSJ Business Meeting during coffee hour  |
| <b>January 9</b>   | ~AWSJ Book Club will resume in the new year with a discussion of <i>I Capture the Castle</i> by Dodie Smith. 7:00 p.m. at Corinne Elliott’s home |