

From the Fathers (and others):

Death itself, which once was man's chiefest terror, has been overthrown, and now that which was once the object of hate and loathing is preferred to life. These are the achievements of Christ's presence: these are the tokens of His power. For it was not one people that He saved, as when through Moses He divided the sea and delivered Israel out of Egypt and the bondage of Pharaoh (cf. Ex. 14:16); nay, rather He rescued all mankind from the corruption of death and the bitter tyranny of sin: not leading them by force to virtue, not overwhelming them with earth or burning them with fire, or ordering the sinners to be stoned, but persuading men by gentleness and long-suffering to choose virtue and vie with one another and find pleasure in the struggle to attain it.

St. John of Damascus

When a ray of sunlight enters the house through a crack, it lights up everything inside, and even the finest dust in its beam. So it is with the fear of the Lord, it reveals all the fallibility still lurking there.

St. John Climacus

...and may you never be entangled in the snares of the wicked...or bound with the chains of your sins. May the Word in you never be smothered with the cares of this life and so make you unfruitful; but may you walk in the King's Highway, turning aside neither to the right hand nor to the left, but led by the Spirit through the narrow gates.

St Gregory the Theologian

Every Christian should find for himself the imperative and incentive to become holy. If you live without struggle and without hope of becoming holy, then you are Christians only in name and not in essence.

St Philaret of Moscow

We must try to always be in good spirits, always joyful, because the spirits of evil want us to be sad all the time.

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

There is no one so stupid as he who cannot see his own sins and cannot see the virtues of others. There is no one so enlightened as he who can see and recognize his own sins and the virtues of others.

St Nikolai of Zicha

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ February 18, 2018 ~
Forgiveness Sunday/Cheesefare

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

www.stjohnmemphis.org

www.orthodoxtupelo.com

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

Forgiveness Sunday

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

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

February 18-25 (Great Fast)

- Sunday** -Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Great Compline w/ Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Crosstown
-Great Compline w/ Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Great Compline w/ Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.
Friday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
-Akathist, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday -Ninth Hour & Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -**ALL SERVICES AT ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX**
-**Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

DIVINE LITURGY – Sunday of Orthodoxy

Sunday, February 25, 10:00 a.m.

- PRIEST:** ALL
HOLY BREAD: Stephanie Harants
COFFEE HOUR: Please contribute fast friendly items as you are able

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Tuesday, 2/20:** Audrey van Drimmelen
Thursday, 2/22: Corina Walker
Saturday, 2/24: Kh. Kathryn

COMMEMORATIONS

February 18: Leo the Great, pope of Rome; Agapitos the Confessor, bishop of Synnada in Phrygia; Venerable Colman, bishop of Lindisfarne.

February 19: Apostles Archippos, Philemon and Apphias of the Seventy; Venerable-martyr Philothea of Athens; New-martyr Nikita the New of Epiros.

February 20: Leo, bishop of Catania in Sicily; Venerable Vissarion the Great of Egypt; Agathon, pope of Rome.

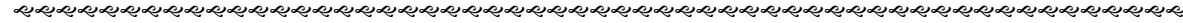
February 21: Venerable Timothy of Symbola; Eustathios, archbishop of Antioch; Zachariah, patriarch of Jerusalem; George, bishop of Amastris.

February 22: The uncovering of the relics of the Martyrs at the gate of Eugenios in Constantinople; Martyr Anthusa.

February 23: Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; Martyr Polychronios; Venerable Gorgonia; Venerable Damian and Venerable-martyr Damian of Philotheou monastery on Athos.

February 24: The first and second discoveries of the honorable head of the Forerunner.

February 25: Tarasios, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyrs Reginos, bishop of Skopelos, and Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria; Martyr Alexander of Markianopolis.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 18-25

Sunday	Romans	13:11-14; 14:1-4	Matthew	6:14-21
Monday	Genesis	1:1-13	Proverbs	1:1-20
Tuesday	Genesis	1:14-23	Proverbs	1:20-33
Wednesday	Genesis	1:24-2:3	Proverbs	2:1-22
Thursday	Genesis	2:4-19	Proverbs	3:1-18
Friday	Genesis	2:20-3:20	Proverbs	3:19-34
Saturday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Matthew	11:2-15
Sunday	Hebrews	11:24-26, 32-40	John	1:43-51



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis – Kendall Ichniowski, Nelvia Agnew, John Agnew, and Calen and Katherine Verbist.

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), Chelsea Yadron (pregnant), Heather Hetrick (pregnant), Julie Hight (pregnant), Anne Katherine Vanlandingham (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



Parish Council Update - In the meeting on Tuesday, the council decided to move forward with the Memphis Audio recommendation to treat the hall with acoustic panels on the ceiling. There may still be additional work that needs to be done, but this is a major step in the right direction. In addition, the council discussed another visit with Bishop NICHOLAS this summer and an upcoming evangelism opportunity with Annunciation and St. George. Stay tuned for more details on all of the above!

Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church – We will worship **next Sunday, February 25**, at the Greek parish, 573 N. Highland. Orthros will begin at 8:45 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Remember, at the conclusion of the liturgy, children in all three parishes (St. John, Annunciation, and St. Seraphim) make the procession with the icons. *Have your children bring their favorite icon with them for the procession.*

Church School reminder for parents: We will not have church school next. Please continue to remember us in your prayers, as we strive to create a time and space for children to draw nearer to our Lord.

Women of St. John – As is our tradition, we are asked to contribute to next week’s coffee hour at Annunciation. Please bring fast friendly items if you are able and leave them in the parish hall at Annunciation before liturgy.

Wednesday Teachings - Since we are entering Lent, we will not have Wednesday night teachings again until after Pascha. We have LOTS of opportunities to pray during Lent. Use this time to pray with your brothers and sisters regularly each week!!

Online Sign Up - Links to all of our sign ups can be found on the St. John website under *Parish-Online Assignments and Sign Ups: Coffee Hour, Lenten Meals*

Women of St. John Calendar

March 15 **Women’s Teaching** - 10:00 a.m., Sarah Hodges’ home

May 7 **AWSJ Book Club** – *Catherine of Sienna* by Sigrid Undset

AS WE PREPARE FOR GREAT LENT

Forgiveness Vespers

The opening service of Great Lent is Forgiveness Vespers this evening at 6:00 p.m. which will be followed by the Rite of Forgiveness. Begin today to prepare yourselves for that very important and powerful service which begins our annual school of repentance.

Wednesday Lenten Meals

As has been our tradition, each Wednesday following Presanctified Liturgy we enjoy a meal prepared by one or more of our parishioners. If you would like to provide one of these meals, please contact Trish in the office or sign up on the website. The dates are: **February 21, 28; March 7, 14, 18; April 5 (Holy Thursday).**

For those new to St. John, the menu is solely at the discretion of those preparing the meal. Some choose to offer soup, salad and dessert; others enjoy cooking a meal with many dishes. Typically, you can expect to be serving 65 people. Many women find a friend to cook with while some women prefer to do it on their own...it's up to you! Costs for preparing the meals are reimbursed upon request; please see Trish.

STOCK UP THE FOOD PANTRY FOR GREAT LENT!

Week 1: Feb. 18-24

*Canned meats:
Spam
Vienna Sausages
Canned chicken
Tuna

Week 4: Mar. 11-17

Dry Items
individual cereal boxes
oatmeal packets
granola bars or cereal bars
rice/beans
nabs

* Many of the patrons of the food pantry are homeless and have no means with which to open cans and/or cook their food. When possible, please buy items with pop-tops that are ready to eat.

**Please donate baby items to Birthright.

Week 2: Feb. 25-Mar. 3

Peanut Butter (*creamy*)
Crackers

Week 5: Mar. 18-24

Toiletries
Toilet Paper
Toothpaste/toothbrush
Shampoo

Week 3: Mar. 4-10

*Canned Goods:
Soup (*Ready to eat*)
Veggies/ beans/fruit
Drinks/drink boxes

Weeks 6: Mar. 25-31

*Canned meals:
Chef Boy R Dee
Chili
Mac n Cheese

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

We know nothing else than our present life in a fallen world, and it is difficult for us to realize how man was meant to live. Today we remember Adam and Eve and their expulsion from the garden. The concept of original sin and its consequences is a subject of disagreement among the Christian traditions. Check the following items in St. John Library tell that tell us the wisdom of the Fathers on Creation and original sin: *Animals and Man: a State of Blessedness* (CAT CRE STE), *Becoming Human* by Fr. John Behr (SPR LIV BEH), *The Fathers of Our Church* by St. John Damascus (PAT JOH), *The First-Created Man* by St. Symeon the New Theologian (PAT/SYM), *The Heavenly Garden* (KID CHU STN), *The Lament of Eve* (PAT COM MAN), *Life: the Orthodox Doctrine of Salvation* (CAT GEN CAR), *Marriage and Virginity According to St. John Chrysostom* (PAT COM JOH) by Fr. Josiah Trenham, *On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ* by St. Maximus the Confessor (PAT MAX), *On the Mystical Life: the Ethical Discourses* by St. Symeon the New Theologian (PAT SYM), *Orthodox Apologetic Theology* (CAT GEN AND), and *Orthodox Theology: an Introduction* by Vladimir Lossky (CAT GEN LOS)

St. Leo the Great (2/18) is perhaps the most well-known bishop of Rome whom we commemorate. He brought a devout faith, underscored by an excellent education, to the Church when She was attacked by the heresy of the Monophysites who denied the dual natures of Christ. Many of us are fond of the Celtic saints. And, there is a strong tie between the Orthodoxy and the Celtic Church. See *Again Magazine*, the summer 2007 issue, "How to Get to the Land of the West: an *Again* Interview with Terry Mattingly." Also look at *Orthodox America*, February 1986, pp. 5-6 and at *Road to Emmaus*, spring 2001, pp. 49 and 32, summer 2007, p. 3. Check the book shelves for *Saints of the British Isles* (HAG - - - PET). Like your info on CD? Listen to *Saints of Old Britain, Especially Wales* (HAG - - - DEI).

St. Colman (2/18) of Ireland, was tonsured as a monk and was a devoted disciple of St Columba (6/9) and a contemporary of Sts. Aidan (8/31) and Finan (2/17). Most of our information of him comes from the Venerable Bede (5/27). He was a strong influence in controversies of the time: proper calculation of the date of Pascha, power of local monasteries over worship practices, and the practice of tonsuring.

St. Polycarp (2/23) is an example of a man who was and kept good company. St. Irenaeus of Lyons was his disciple and is quoted as saying to a friend that although he was very young when he first saw Polycarp, he "would still be able to point out the place where Blessed Polycarp sat and conversed, and able to depict his walk, his mannerisms in life, his outward appearance, ... and how he himself related, together with other eyewitnesses of the Lord...through the mercy of God to me. I then listened attentively to Polycarp and wrote down his words, not on tablets, but in the depths of my heart." St. Polycarp was martyred by Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the 2nd century. Read more about him in *The Encyclopedia of Major Saints* (HAG - - - ELE), *Fathers of the Church* (HAG - - - WUE) and in *Pillars of the Church* (HAG - - - GRA).

Saturday (2/24) we commemorate the first and second finding of the head of St. John the Forerunner. This event, as well as the topics of relics leaves many people shaking their heads. We all know that Herod's wife buried St. John's head in ignominy. What most of us don't know is that St. Johanna (6/27), one of the Myrrhbearers, secretly took it and buried it on the Mount of Olives. Many years later it was found by a monk who was building the foundation for a church. Fearing it would be dishonored after his death, he re-buried it in the same place. It was found again by two monks who gave it to a potter who reverently cared for it. It was revered for many generations until it came into the possession of an Arian priest who buried it in a cave. Years later St. John appeared to pious monks who were building a monastery and told them the location of his head. It was then taken to Constantinople. Take a look at *Holy Relics* (CAT GEN FRA) for on this practice.