

From the Fathers (and others):

Love the poor and co-suffer with them, so that God may have mercy on you also.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

Given that we desire long life, should we not take eternal life into account? If we long for a kingdom which, however enduring, has an end, and glory and joy which, great as they are, will fade, and wealth that will perish with this present life, and we labour for the sake of such things; ought we not to seek the kingdom, glory, joy and riches which, as well as being all-surpassing, are unfading and endless, and ought we not to endure a little constraint in order to inherit it?

St. Gregory Palamas

Among the Twelve Holy Martyrs who suffered in 308 A.D. under the Emperor Diocletian were five Egyptian brothers according to the flesh and the spirit: Elias, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Samuel and Daniel. As they faced the beheading sword, they were asked where they were from. They responded: "From the Jerusalem on High."

God is resplendently reflected in the souls of His chosen ones, and these pure souls, these images of God, like the transparent glass, shine forth like gold in the sun, like diamonds of the purest water, but they shine for God and the angels, not revealing their brightness to men, although at times, by God's ordering, they do shine even for them, by the light of their faith, their virtues, when necessary, similar to a candle put on a candlestick in a room, and lighting the room with all those who are in it. (cf. Mt. 5:15).

St. John of Kronstadt

Do not claim to have acquired virtue unless you have suffered affliction, for without affliction virtue has not been tested.

St Mark the Ascetic

In the beginning, envy is revealed through inappropriate zeal and rivalry, and later by fervor with spite and the blaming of the one who is envied.

St Ambrose of Optina

St. John Orthodox Church



~ February 19, 2017 ~
Sunday of the Last Judgment
Meat Fare

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

February 19, 2017

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel: Matthew 23: 31-46

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Karen Wells**.

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

Feb. 19 - 26 (Fast from meat)

- Sunday** -Meatfare Potluck
-**NO** Teen Group
-Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club, 6:30 p.m., Brandon Maas's home
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's lunch, 12:00 p.m.
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
-Meal following Vespers
-Wednesday teaching, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- 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 and Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
-Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 p.m.

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Basil	HOMILY:	Fr. Basil
READER:	John Cameron	USHER:	John Sneed
HOLY BREAD:	Harvey family		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Eli, Thomas, Paul, James		
COFFEE HOUR:	Karen Bell, Stephanie Harants		

MEMORIAL TODAY

Elias Mansour – Nawar Mansour's father
Mahanna Khlaifat

CLERGY OUT OF OFFICE

Fr. Philip will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday of this week.

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

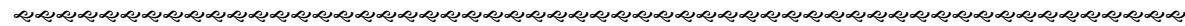
February 22: The uncovering of the relics of the Martyrs at the gate of Eugenios in Constantinople; Martyr Anthusa.

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.

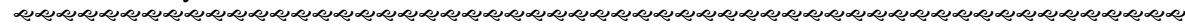
February 26: Prophyrios, bishop of Gaza; Great-martyr Photeini the Samaritan Woman and those with her; Martyr Theoklitos and those with him; New-martyr John of Constantinople.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 19-26

Sunday	1 Corinthians	8:8-9:2	Matthew	25:31-46
Monday	3 John	1:1-15	Luke	19:29-40; 22:7-39
Tuesday	Jude	1:1-10	Luke	22:39-42, 45-71; 23:1
Wednesday	Joel	2:12-26	Joel	3:12-21
Thursday	Jude	1:11-25	Luke	23:1-31, 33, 44-56
Friday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Matthew	11:2-15
Saturday	Galatians	5:22-6:2	Matthew	6:1-13
Sunday	Romans	13:11-14:4	Matthew	6:14-21



Pray for our catechumens: **Memphis** –Justin Bowles; Wendy Weatherall (Brody & Eli); Lucas Whatley.

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



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



The **Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club** will be meeting at Brandon Maas's home on Meatfare Sunday, February 19th at 6:30 for a time of fellowship and meaty food. All men are welcome.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Monday, 2/20: Audrey van Drimmelen

Tuesday, 2/21: Cade Calcote

Wednesday, 2/22: Corina Walker

Friday, 2/24: Kh. Kathryn

Saturday, 2/25: Sophie Mansour

AS WE PREPARE FOR GREAT LENT

Meat Fare Potluck

Our annual Meat Fare Potluck is *today* following Divine Liturgy. Join us!

Forgiveness Vespers

The opening service of Great Lent is Forgiveness Vespers next Sunday evening, February 26 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 downstairs in the parish hall. The dates are: **March 8, March 15 and April 13 (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! Drinks are provided by the parish. Costs for preparing the meals are reimbursed upon request; please see Trish.

Women of St. John ~ AWSJ

- March 9** ~Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home
March 19 ~SAVE THE DATE~ **Baby Shower for Chelsea Yadron**
May 1 ~AWSJ Book Club will be discussing *Ascent to the Summit...the Life and Martyric Death of Igor Rozin*

Master Plan Updates

Progress on building – Ground has officially been broken! The elevator pit was dug out and filled with concrete. The footings for much of the building and the retaining wall have been dug and filled with rebar and are ready for the next step. Thank God for his graciousness as we continue this project!

Fund raising – Thank you for your help thus far!! There are pledge cards for the building fund available downstairs. Every little bit helps!

Library Lines

Many, even in the Christian tradition feel uncomfortable thinking about Christ as the Great Judge, but our Church gives us this day to focus our attention on this event. Read about it and how we are to prepare for it in Mother Christophora's "Homily on the Last Judgment" in the Pascha, 2000 issue of *Life Transfigured*, page 5. See also *The Mystery of Death* (CAT DEA VAS), *A Rumor of War* (CAT/APO/ENG), and *Ultimate Things* (SPR LIV ENG). See also 2 CD sets, *Death and Resurrection* by Bh. Kallistos Ware and *When Our End Comes: From Life to Afterlife* by Fr. Ted Pulchini.

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).

Sts. Colman (2/18) and Finan (2/17) both of Lindisfarne, Ireland, were upholders of the Celtic tradition in its struggle against the Roman influence. St. Finan, Irish by birth, became a monk and upheld the Celtic traditions against the encroachment of Roman practices. Finan baptized local rulers and debated the correct way to calculate the date of Easter. He died in 661.

St. Colman, also 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. 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. (See the bulletin board for a history of the practice.)

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).

Friday (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.

ST. JOHN LIBRARY'S NEWEST - JUST IN TIME FOR LENT!!

The Voice of Confession (CAT SAC OMA) by the Orthodox Monastery of All Celtic Saints in the United Kingdom is a short read; it's actually a booklet. The ideals, goals, and practices of confession are presented to us in a comfortable, conversational manner. A side feature of the book's tone is the character of the illustrations. Scattered throughout the pages are drawings of the contemporary Elders' faces who seem to be reflecting as they converse with us. You'll find this book on the display cart in the library. I recommend it as your excellent first read this Lenten season for catechumens and everyone. It has also received accolades from Fr. Stephen Freeman in his *Glory to God for All Things* blog.