

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

Fight the good fight until you reach the end, clinging fast to those qualities that will assure your passage to love's goal. I mean: love of humankind, brotherly and sisterly love, hospitality, love of the poor, compassion, mercy, humility, meekness, gentleness, patience, freedom from anger, long-suffering, perseverance, kindness, forbearance, goodwill and peace towards all. Out of these and through these the grace of love is fashioned, which leads one to God who defies the human being that He Himself fashioned. Through Isaiah the Lord has told us: 'I am the Lord your God, Who leads you in the way of righteousness, in which you should go, and you have heard My commandments.' Therefore, 'your peace has become like a river and your righteousness like the waves of the sea' (Isa. 48:17-18).

St. Maximos the Confessor

Do not rebuke those who sorrow at heart, that you might not be punished with the same rod, and so that when you begin to seek for one that would have mercy on you, you might not find that there he is not there!

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

Let us repent with all our heart and cast away not only our evil deeds, but also the wicked and unclean thoughts of our hearts and obliterate them in accordance with that which is written: 'Rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:13). Tell me: What use is it if we distribute our goods to the poor, but fail to make a break with evil and to hate sin? What use is it if, while we do not actively commit bodily sin, we mentally engage in shameful and unclean thoughts and invisibly commit sin and are governed and controlled by restrained passions of soul? I beseech you, let us cast away, together with our wealth, the habit of servitude to the evils we have mentioned. Nor let us stop at this, but let us eagerly wash away their defilement with tears of penitence.

St. Symeon the New Theologian

Christ, the Sun of righteousness (Mal. 4:2), is without beginning and pre-eternal. He is both immutable and unchangeable, as with Him there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning (Jms. 1:17). He is without end, never-setting, beaming out the true and heavenly light of day without evening, in which the spirits of the righteous live with the good angels. When this present age reaches its end, the righteous shall also have their bodies with them, as heirs of the light and sons of the true day. That day continues forever without evening and neither has, nor ever did have, a morning, since it has no beginning.

St. Gregory Palamas

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## St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ February 26, 2017 ~  
Forgiveness Sunday*

**ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

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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*

## February 26, 2017 Forgiveness Sunday

**Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4**

**Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21**

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by the **Harvey family**.

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. 26 – March 5 (Great Fast)**

- Sunday** - Teen Group, 5:00  
-Forgiveness Vespers with Rites of Forgiveness, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Great Compline with Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Great Compline with Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 p.m.  
-Parish meal following liturgy – prepared by Stephanie Harants
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Great Compline with Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Paraklesis, 12:00 p.m.  
-Akathist, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** **Orthodoxy Sunday at Annunciation Greek Orthodox on Highland**  
-Orthros, 8:45 a.m.  
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

## DIVINE LITURGY

**Sunday, March 5, 10:00 a.m.**

PRIEST:                      PRIEST:        ALL  
HOLY BREAD:              Trish Ratliff  
ALTAR SERVERS:  
COFFEE HOUR:              Women of St. John

## UPCOMING:

**March 12**      Churching of Angela and Emma Jane Leopold

## COMMEMORATIONS

**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.

**February 27:** Venerable Prokopios the Confessor of Decapolis; Martyrs Galasios of Heliopolis and Nisios; New-martyr Elias.

**February 28:** Venerable Basil the Confessor, companion of Prokopios of Decapolis; Hieromartyr Proterios, patriarch of Alexandria; Apostles Nympha and Euvoulos; New-martyr Kyranna. Venerable John Cassian the Roman (in non-leap years).

**February 29:** Venerable John Cassian the Roman.

**March 1:** Venerable-martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis; Venerable Domnina of Syria; Martyrs Markellos and Anthony of Pamphylia; Venerable Agapios of Vatopedi monastery on Athos; Venerable David of Wales, bishop of Menevia.

**March 2:** Theodotos, bishop of Cyrenia; Martyr Hesychios the Senator; Virgin-martyr Euthanlia of Sicily; Arsenios, bishop of Tver.

**March 3:** Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea; Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch.

**March 4:** Venerable Gerasimos of the Jordan; Gregory, bishop of Constantios in Cyprus; Martyrs Paul and Juliana of Syria; Daniel, prince of Moscow, the wonder-worker.

**March 5:** Hieromartyr Konon of Isauria; Martyrs Archelaos and his 152 companions in Egypt; New-martyr John the Bulgarian.



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church** – We will worship **next Sunday, March 5**, 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 Sunday, March 5, as we will be celebrating Orthodoxy Sunday at Annunciation Greek Church. 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!!

**Monday Bible Study** – *New this Lent* – We will begin a Bible study following Compline on Mondays during Lent, beginning March 6. We will be studying the Book of Revelation.

## Master Plan Updates

**Progress on building** – The trenches for the footings are dug and have been filled with concrete. The retaining wall is up. They continue to work on getting the deep plumbing done so that we can see a slab being set in the near future. The building is really beginning to take shape. O Holy Father, Raphael, pray unto God for us!

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

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

**Sunday, 2/26:** *St. Photini: Laura Graham, Mary Clark, Janine Smith, Dianna Hildebrand*

**Tuesday, 2/28:** Dn. Sidney Elliott, Moriah Crum

**Thursday, 3/2:** Ava Ortwein, Don Eastman, David Yarbrow

**Friday, 3/3:** Pam Bowick, David Rustom, Michael Cameron

**Saturday, 3/4:** Elliott Longa, Jacob White

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			<b>February 19-26</b>	
Sunday	Romans	13:11-14:4	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 Timothy	2:1-10	Mark	2:23-3:5
Sunday	Hebrews	11:24-26, 32-12:2	John	1:43-51

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

## AS WE ENTER 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 downstairs in the parish hall. The dates are: **March 8 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.

### Lenten Handouts

The *newly updated* Lenten booklets are now available downstairs in the parish hall. They include many articles relevant to our Lenten journey including a wonderful bibliography of books available in our library prepared by Judy Terry. These booklets also contain the schedule of all services for our parish from Forgiveness Sunday through Pascha along with pertinent information about the services of Holy Week and information on our parochial practices.

*May we all prepare even now to use the season to draw closer to our God through our voluntary ascetical work of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving!*

## Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

- 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*

## 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 bulletin board in St. John Library to see a list of titles on the wisdom of the Fathers on this subject.

As we pray the Canon of St. Andre of Crete throughout Great Lent, we encounter many Old and New Testament characters who are models of repentance and rebellion against God. Some are familiar to us and many are not. *First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty-Day Journey through the Canon of St. Andrew* by Frederica Mathews-Green is a very thorough commentary on this beautiful, great hymn of repentance. Each portion of the canon is printed with accompanying Scripture references and commentary. The book begins with a general introduction and historical background of the canon. I highly recommend it for catechumens and "old-timers" alike.

We honor two Samaritan women saints this week and one the next, St. Photini (2/26) and St. Eudokia (3/1). St. Photini is a patron of several at St. John as is known to all of us as the woman to whom Christ asked water at Jacob's well. She is commemorated with her two sons, five sisters, St. Sebastian, and Domnina, the daughter of Nero. When St. Photini learned that her sons and Sebastian had been arrested by Nero, she and her sisters journeyed to Rome and lived under the supervision of Domnina who was then converted by them. The emperor subjected Photini, her family and all the converts to cruel torments and then imprisoned them for three years. They were then flayed, one was torn apart and some beheaded. St. Photini was thrown down a well and gave her life to God. Learn more about her in *Christ and His Saints* (HAG - - - REA), *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG - - - MOS), *Saints and Sisterhood* (HAG - - - TOP), and in *Orthodox America*, #162, p. 8.

St. John Cassian has the distinction of being commemorated February 29. His pious parents gave him an excellent classic and spiritual education, and later he was tonsured as a monastic. He spent many years learning from the desert fathers. In his later life, he became a disciple of St. John Chrysostom. He is best known as the author of three great works of the Faith. *Conferences with the Fathers* (PAT JOH), addresses in conversational form purity, understanding Scripture, the four levels of monasticism, repentance and humility. *The Institutes of Cenobitic Life* (PAT JOH) discusses monastic life in Palestine and Egypt and overcoming the eight deadly sins. *On the Incarnation of the Lord, Against Nestorius* opposes heresy on the person of Christ.

St. Eudokia (3/1) lived in Samaria under the reign of the Roman emperor Trajan. She, like St. Mary of Egypt, lived a life of debauchery. One night she awoke to hear Elder Germanus reading about the Last Judgment. Her heart was struck by her sin and great wealth. She repented and was baptized. She then entered a monastery, and God blessed her with spiritual gifts. When she was accused of taking gold from the city and hiding it at the monastery, the troops sent to recover it were miraculously prevented from entering the buildings. On three occasions, relatives of those persecuting the saint died and were restored to life through her prayers. She lived in the monastery for over fifty years. Then again a new governor instituted persecutions against the Christians; she was beheaded on the first of March. Read more about her in *Saints and Sisterhood* (HAG- - -TOP).