

From the Fathers (and others):

'My God, my God, look upon me, why have you forsaken me (Ps. 22:1; Mt. 27:46)?'... Our Lord Jesus Christ is not forsaken either by the Father or, as some think, by His own Godhead, which shrank in fear from suffering, abandoning the sufferer. Who applies that argument either to His birth in this world in the first place or to His ascent of the cross? No, in Himself... He expresses our condition. We had once been the forsaken and disregarded; then we were accepted and now are saved by the sufferings of the impassible. He made our thoughtlessness and waywardness His own, just as the psalm, in its subsequent course, says (Ps. 22:1-3) - since the Twenty-Second Psalm clearly refers to Christ.

St. Gregory of Nazianzus

The Holy Spirit, out of compassion for our weakness, comes to us even when we are impure. And if He finds our intellect truly praying to Him, He enters it and puts to flight the whole array of thoughts and ideas circling within it, and He arouses it to a longing for spiritual prayer.

Evagrius the Solitary

Don't let anything deprive you of hope.

St. Nektarios of Aegina

Let us not grieve when we make a slip, but when we become hardened by it.

St. Issac the Syrian

Do not establish your previously committed sins in your soul by thinking about them so that they not be repeated in you. Be assured that they were forgiven you from the time you gave yourself to God and to repentance. In that, do not doubt.

St. Anthony the Great

"Even when your body does nothing, sin can be active in your mind. When your soul inwardly repulses the evil one's attack by means of prayer, attention, remembrance of death, godly sorrow and mourning, the body, too, takes its share of holiness, having acquired freedom from evil actions. This is what the Lord meant by saying that someone who cleans the outside of the cup has not cleansed it inside, but clean the inside and the whole cup will be clean (Mt. 23:25-26)."

St. Gregory Palamas

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ February 4, 2018 ~
Prodigal Son
2nd Sunday of the Triodion

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

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Jamie White**.

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 4 – 11 (Wed & Fri Fast)

- Sunday** -Teen Group, 5:00 p.m.
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Crosstown
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m., What is the Orthodox Church
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
-Teaching, 6:15 p.m., Salvation – Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m., location TBD
Friday - First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
-Pre-Lenten Retreat, Session 1, 6:30 p.m., light refreshments served
Saturday -**Divine Liturgy, Saturday of Souls, 9:00 a.m.**
-Pre-Lenten Retreat, 10:30 a.m.
-Ninth Hour & Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -**Orthros and Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
-Meatfare potluck following liturgy

DIVINE LITURGY

Saturday, February 10, 9:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip HOMILY: Fr. Philip
READER:
HOLY BREAD: Sarah Ortwein
COFFEE HOUR:

DIVINE LITURGY - Meatfare

Sunday, February 11, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Alex HOMILY: Fr. Alex
READER: David Twombly USHER: Matt Spinolo
HOLY BREAD: **NEED VOLUNTEER**
ALTAR SERVERS: Pavel, Max, Brody, Paul, volunteer
COFFEE HOUR: Marissa Kizer, **NEED VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH SET UP AND CLEAN UP**

COMMEMORATIONS

February 4: Venerable Isidore of Pelusium; Venerable Nicholas the Confessor of Studion; New-martyr Joseph of Aleppo; George, prince of Vladimir; Venerable Cyril, wonder-worker of Novoezersk.

February 5: Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily; Poyeuktos, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Anthony of Athens; Venerable Theodosios; repose of Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov.

February 6: Boukolos, bishop of Smyrna; Photios the Great, patriarch of Constantinople; Martyr Julian (Ilyan) of Homs, the holy and unmercenary healer.

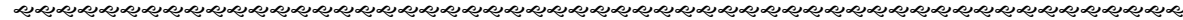
February 7: Parthenios, bishop of Lampsakos; Venerable Luke of Hellas; New-martyr George of Crete.

February 8: Great-martyr Theodore the General (“Stratelates”); Prophet Zachariah; Sabbas II, archbishop of Serbia.

February 9: Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch; Hieromartyrs Markellos, bishop of Sicily, Pankratios, bishop of Taormina, and Philagrios, bishop of Cyprus; translation of the relics of Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk.

February 10: Hieromartyr Haralampos the wonder-worker, bishop of Magnesia; Venerable Zenon.

February 11: Hieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebaste; Theodora the empress; New-martyr George of Serbia; Vsevolod, prince and wonder-worker of Pskov; Venerable Demetrius of Prilutsk.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 4 - 11

Sunday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Luke 15:11-32
Monday	1 John 2:18-29, 3:1-8	Mark 11:1-11
Tuesday	Hebrews 7:26-28, 8:1-2	John 10:9-16
Wednesday	1 John 3:21-24; 4:1-11	Mark 14:43-72, 15:1
Thursday	Ephesians 2:4-10	Matt 10:16-22
Friday	2 John 1:1-13	Mark 15:20, 22, 25, 33-41
Saturday	2 Timothy 2:1-10	John 15:17-27; 16:1-2
Sunday	1 Corinthians 8:8-13, 9:1-2	Matt 25:31-46



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis – 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), 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.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Women’s Teaching – We are in need of a host for this Thursday’s teaching. If you would like to host, please contact Trish. Check your emails this week for location! We will meet at the church if no one’s home is available.

Parish Council Update -The next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday, February 13. Lord willing, discussions will continue on the best way to address the sound in the hall as well as looking ahead to a strategic planning committee.

Meatfare Potluck – We will have our traditional Meatfare potluck *next Sunday* following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 11. Please bring a non-fasting dish(es) large enough to share and enjoy the fellowship of your St. John family.

Great Lent is near – As we remember the Prodigal Son today, we are reminded that the Great Fast is soon to follow. Lent begins on February 19. We will shortly place more material in the parish hall for your use regarding services and other information. As a reminder, remember the *traditional fasting discipline* is observed during the Great Fast which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday (with *katalysis* for wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays [except on Great and Holy Saturday when oil is not permitted], and for fish, wine and oil on the Annunciation [March 25th] and Palm Sunday).

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!

Lenten Meals – The Great Fast begins on February 19! Each year those who desire to do so, provide our Wednesday Lenten Meal following Presanctified Liturgy. If you or a group of your friends would like to cook a fast-friendly meal for the parish (about 70-80 people) following Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy, please contact Trish in the office. The dates are: Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 7, March 14, March 28, and April 5 (Holy Thursday). There is a link available on the website as well. The meals do not need to be elaborate! Examples from previous years: soup & salad; shrimp, potatoes, & green beans; Mexican/Southwestern; sandwiches & chips; Middle Eastern. Our only request is that it adheres to the traditional fasting guidelines. You are more than welcome to use the new kitchen!

Sons of Thunder Men’s Book Club will be meeting Sunday February 11th at 6:30 in Dn. James’s home. They will be discussing *The Song of Sirin* by Nicholas Kotar. All men are welcome.

Pre-Lenten Retreat! February 9-10, Paul Finely, Executive Director of St. Herman House in Cleveland, OH will be offering a lively retreat on the Beatitudes. All are welcome to attend and be encouraged as we prepare for Great Lent! See flyer for more details!

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays
Saturday, 2/10: Joseph Schlewett, Sarah Ortwein

Online Sign Ups:

Links to all of our sign ups can be found on the St. John website under
Parish-Online Assignments and Sign Ups

Coffee Hour

Pre-Lenten Retreat

Wed. Night Meal Pick Up

Lenten Meals

UPCOMING @ STJOHN

Feb. 9 & 10 - Pre-Lenten Retreat with Paul Finley

Feb. 10 – Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Souls, 9:00 a.m.

Feb. 11 – Meatfare Sunday Potluck, please bring dish(es) to share

Feb. 18 – Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 p.m.

Feb. 19 – FIRST DAY OF GREAT LENT

Women of St. John Calendar

Feb. 8 Women's Teaching - 10:00 a.m., *location needed*

Feb. 12 AWSJ Book Club – *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate
We will meet at Kh. Pamela's home (*date change!*)

Master Plan updates

St Raphael Hall – Efforts are being made to continue to work on the sound in the hall. We've received three different estimates on how to best work with the sound and are working to make a decision on how to best fix the situation.

A NEW PROJECT – We have entered into an agreement with 901 Properties to manage our new purchase. Lord willing, they will be renting the property in the coming weeks. If you or someone you know is interested, see Fr Philip or a council member for information on getting in touch with 901 about the process of renting.

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!

Library Lines

What does catching pigs have to do with the Prodigal Son??? Take a closer look at this familiar parable in *The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to St. Luke* (REF PAT THE) by Blessed Theophylact. For more insight into this parable and others, see *The Parables* (SCR COM ROY) by Archbishop Dimitri, *Forty Gospel Homilies* (REF PAT GRE) by St. Gregory the Great, *Return: Repentance and Confession: Return to God and to His Church* by Archm. Nektarios Antonopoulos (CAT HMYS CON ANT) and *The Parables of Christ* (KID BIB SPI).

Thursday, we honor the Prophet Zachariah (2/8). He was called the sickle-seer because had a vision in which he saw a sickle flying in the air and destroying evil doers. He prophesied very specific events in the life of Christ, including the Triumphal Entry, the piercing of his side and the darkening of the sun at the crucifixion.

Friday of this week we commemorate the translation of the relics of St. Innocent of Irkutsk (2/9). Read more about him in *New Apostles of Christ* (HAG - - - HAT) and *Recently Canonized Saints* (HAG - - - DEV). Hardly a week goes by that the Church doesn't observe the uncovering or translation of a saint's relics. So, what's so important about it? *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (HIS CRO) donates a page to this practice explaining that it is even practiced in Buddhism and is "based on the natural instinct of men to treat with reverence what is left of the dead they loved." A more readable explanation is given in *The Pearl* by Michael Whelton. (CAT/GEN/WHE) Chapter VI gives us his answers to questions frequently asked by Protestants, or former ones like most of us. His concise answer concerning relics begins on page 139. Kallistos Ware connects this practice with the theology of the body in *The Orthodox Church* (CAT/GEN/WAR). See chapter 11. See also *Holy Relics* by T. L. Frazier (CAT/SPEC/FRA) and *The Truth of Our Faith* by Elder Cleopa (PAT CLE), pp. 95-103. For a shorter discourse, read "Can These Bones Live?" in *Road to Emmaus*, spring 2006, p. 63.

Little is known of St. Haralambos's life (2/10) except his martyrdom. He lived and preached in Asia Minor in the late second century. At age 113, he was arrested for professing Christ and refusing to sacrifice to idols. His tormentors tore his body with iron hooks and flayed his skin. Some of those who directed his torture were themselves miraculously disfigured, and others witnessing these cruelties confessed Christ and were martyred. Finally, before the saint was beheaded, he prayed to God that the resting place of his relics would never suffer famine or disease and that those living there would be saved and would live in peace and abundance. His icon is in our nave.