

From the Fathers (and others):

Remember, never to fear the power of evil more than your trust in the power and love of God.
Hermas, one of the Seventy

In reference to the fulfillment of that which you ask of God in prayer, believe that it is as easy, and even incomparably easier, for the Lord to fulfill each of your words than it is for you to pronounce the words, and that if there is the word, there is also the deed; for with the Lord there is no word without the deed; no word shall return unto Him void (cf. Isa. 55:11), according to His word. Remember constantly during prayer that God is That Which Is, and that from Him everything proceeds: both the thought concerning anything, and the word concerning anything and everything, that He is all wise, almighty and all gracious.

St. John of Kronstadt

However great the afflictions we suffer, what are they compared with the promised future reward, or with the grace of the Holy Spirit that visits souls even in this present life, or with the deliverance that we have received from the obscurity of evil passions, or with the enormous debts we owe because of our sins? As St. Paul says: 'The sufferings of this present life are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us' (Rom. 8:18). Hence we must patiently endure everything for the Lord's sake, like brave soldiers dying for our King.

St. Makarios of Egypt

"Be dead in life, and you will not live in death. Let your soul die strenuously, and not live in weakness. Not only those who suffer death for the sake of faith in Christ are martyrs; but also those who die because of their observance of His commandments."

St. Isaac the Syrian

It is better to be despised than to despise. It is better to be insulted than to insult another.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

... if, to me, "to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21), truly my words ought to be about Christ, my every thought and deed ought to depend upon His commandments, and my soul to be fashioned after His.

St. Basil the Great

St. John Orthodox Church



~ February 5, 2017 ~
Publican and the Pharisee

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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MEMPHIS, TN 38107
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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 5, 2017 Publican and the Pharisee

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Reem Mansour**.

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. 5 - 12 (NO FASTING)

- Sunday** -Teen Group returns from retreat
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home
- 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, pizza
-Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
-NO Teaching
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m.
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Paraklesis, 12:00 p.m.
-Dinner & a Show, 6:00 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.**

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	David Twombly	USHER:	Thomas Yadron
HOLY BREAD:	Judy Terry		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Eli, Thomas, Paul, James		
COFFEE HOUR:	Anna Pashchinskaya, Kate Kumar, Christi Yadron		

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

- Friday, February 10** Dinner & a Show, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 18** Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Souls, 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, February 19** Meatfare Potluck, following Liturgy

COMMEMORATIONS

February 5: Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily; Polyeuktos, 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 Demetrios of Prilutsk.

February 12: Meletios, archbishop of Antioch; New-martyr Christos of Constantinople; Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Parish Council – The Parish Council will meet this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Remember, on Wednesdays that the Council meets, we will not have a Wednesday teaching.

Dinner & A Show 2017 is this Friday! Come out and support the Antiochian Women’s national project!

Lost & Left – Please take a quick look around downstairs for items that you may have left or that may have been left for you – the piano & coat hooks in the hallway in particular. Let’s try to lessen Karen and her decorating committee’s load by making sure they don’t need to move several items out of the way in order to decorate on Thursday! Thank you!!

Theophany House Blessings – Please let the office know if you would like for one of the priests to come out and bless your home prior to the beginning of Lent.

Great Lent is near – As we remember the Publican and the Pharisee today and enter into the non-fasting week that follows, we are reminded that the Great Fast is soon to follow. Lent begins on February 27. 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!

Wednesday Lenten Meals – Each Wednesday of Lent, following Presanctified Liturgy, we enjoy a meal prepared by one or more of our parishioners. If you would like to provide one of these Lenten meals, please sign up online, the link is on our website, or contact Trish in the office with the date you prefer. The available dates are: **March 8, March 15, March 22, April 5, 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. Cost for preparing the meals is reimbursed upon request; please see Trish.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Friday, 2/10: Joseph Shleweet, Sarah Ortwein
Saturday, 2/11: Sandy Childress
St. Theodora: Sandy Childress
St. Blaise: Blaise Brackett

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**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

|           |               |          | <b>February 5 - 12</b> |            |
|-----------|---------------|----------|------------------------|------------|
| Sunday    | 2 Timothy     | 3:10-15  | Luke                   | 18:10-14   |
| Monday    | 2 Timothy     | 2:1-10   | Luke                   | 21:12-19   |
| Tuesday   | 2 Peter       | 2:9-22   | Mark                   | 13:14-23   |
| Wednesday | Ephesians     | 2:4-10   | Matthew                | 10:16-22   |
| Thursday  | 1 John        | 1:8-2:6  | Mark                   | 13:31-14:2 |
| Friday    | 2 Timothy     | 2:1-10   | John                   | 15:17-16:2 |
| Saturday  | Hebrews       | 4:14-5:6 | Matthew                | 10:1, 5-8  |
| Sunday    | 1 Corinthians | 6:12-20  | Luke                   | 15:11-21   |

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

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.

Meatfare Potluck

February 19 following Divine Liturgy! Please bring a non-fasting dish(es) large enough to share and enjoy the fellowship of your St. John family as prepare to enter the Lenten fast.

Women of St. John: We need a volunteer to coordinate and helper to assist with set up (tablecloths, utensils, plates, etc.) and food reception (receiving food in kitchen before liturgy, getting out warmers, setting food out on serving tables with serving utensils)

Men of St. John Clean Up: Ben Hight, Bill harter, Don Sanderlin, Ervin Romero, Jeff Boone, Rod Ratliff, Tekla Haymanot, Tim Elliott, Chris Utley, David White



Women of St. John ~ AWSJ

February 6 ~AWSJ Book Club will be discussing *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

February 9 ~Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Elinor Crenshaw's home (2372 Lovitt Drive, Memphis)

teen group

TODAY: NO TEEN GROUP

Next week: Family Feud/Journey through Vespers, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – This week the workers have done a lot of leveling to continue to prepare the sight for construction. Our loan documents were signed this week and we continue to cross our t's and dot our i's as we prepare for this big 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

Today begins our preparation for Great Lent. This three week period begins with our remembrance of the Pharisee and the Publican. To learn more about this important time in our Church's calendar see *The Lenten Triodion Supplement* by Met. Kallistos Ware and "The Springtime of the Feast" by the sisterhood in *Life Transfigured*. This article is on p. 12 of the Pascha, 2004 issue.

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.

Today 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.

Thursday of this week we commemorate the translation of the relics of St. Innocent of Irkutsk (2/9). 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. See also *Holy Relics* by T. L. Frazier (CAT/SPEC/FRA) and *The Truth of Our Faith* by Elder Cleopa (PAT CLE), pp. 212-5. 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.

St. Blaise (2/11) is a beloved saint of the Orthodox and the Western Church. When he hid from persecutors, wild animals came to the saint's cave, but the creatures waited for him to finish his prayers before they received his blessing. He endured many tortures and several of his followers were martyred before him. We ask his intercessions for our domestic animals and for protection against wild ones. Read a story about him and his animals in *Miraculous Friendships between Saints and the Wild Beasts* (KID STS KIS).