

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

The cause of helplessness is unbelief. The greater the faith, the greater the power.

St Nickolai Velimirovich

As a grain of mustard seed, small in size but powerful in action, when it is sown in a small space puts out many shoots and, when it has grown, can give shelter to birds, so also faith in the soul very quickly does the greatest deeds. So have faith in Him, that you may from Him receive a faith that acts beyond human strength.

St Cyril of Jerusalem

Fasting and prayer are the two pillars of faith; two living fires that burn up the evil spirits. Through fasting, all bodily passions are calmed and destroyed, especially promiscuity; through prayer, all other passions of soul, heart and mind are calmed and destroyed: evil intentions and evil deeds, revenge, envy, hatred, malice, pride, ambition and the others.

St Nickolai Velimirovich

There needs to be as much faith as a mustard seed, or even less, for every man to be prepared to await every kind of suffering in this world, knowing for sure that they will, at the end of all things, be in the Resurrection.

St Nickolai Velimirovich

Love, by reason of its nature, is resemblance to God, as far as that is possible for mortals; in its activity it is inebriation of the soul; and by its distinctive property it is a fountain of faith, an abyss of patience, a sea of humility... Love bestows prophecy; love yields miracles; love is an abyss of illumination; love is a fountain of fire: in the measure that it wells up, it inflames the thirsty soul. Love is the state of angels. Love is the progress of eternity.

St John Climacus

Ascend, brothers, ascend eagerly, and be resolved in your hearts to ascend and hear Him who says: Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of our God, who makes our feet like hind's feet, and sets us upon high places, that we might be victors with His song!

St John Climacus

You give the Lord an inch and He takes your life.

Fr Stephen Freeman

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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*~ March 18, 2018 ~*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*  
*Commemoration of John Climacus*

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

[www.orthodoxtupelo.com](http://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*

## Commemoration of John Climacus

**Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20**

**Gospel: Mark 9:17-31**

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Trish Ratliff**.

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

**March 18 - 25 (Great Fast)**

- Sunday** -St. Thekla Choir rehearsal, coffee hour  
-Teen Group, 5:00 p.m.  
-Men's Book Club, 6:30 p.m. at the church
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Crosstown  
-Parish Council, 6:00 p.m.  
-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Small Compline with Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.  
*No Lenten meal due to the length of the service*
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Nave Cleaning, following Third Hour
- 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** -**Orthros & Church School, 9:00 a.m.**  
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

## UPCOMING MEMORIALS, MARCH 25

Mo. Amphilocia-Theodora  
Mo. Seraphima, 6 years  
Esther Longa, 8 years  
Paul Parham, 6 years

## DIVINE LITURGY – Annunciation

**Sunday, March 25, 10:00 a.m.**

- PRIEST:** Fr. Alex  
**READER:** Matt Spinolo  
**USHER:** Aaron White  
**HOLY BREAD:** Karen Bell  
**ALTAR SERVERS:** Zach, Mark, Alex, Thomas, volunteer  
**COFFEE HOUR:** Margaret McKelroy, Thea Wallace, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## COMMEMORATIONS

**March 18:** Cyril, patriarch of Jerusalem; Martyrs Trophymos and Eukarpos of Nicomedia and those with them; Nikoai (Velimirovic), bishop of Zica in Serbia.

**March 19:** Martyrs Chrysanthos, Daria, Jason, Mauros and Diodoros of Rome; Martyr Pancharios of Nicomedia; New-martyr Demetrios of Constantinople; Venerable Innocent of Komel.

**March 20:** The holy fathers slain at the monastery of Mar Sabbas; New-martyr Myron of Crete.

**March 21:** Venerable-confessor James the New, bishop of Catania; Thomas, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Michael.

**March 22:** Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; Martyr Kallinika of Rome; Venerable-martyr Euthymios of Prodromou Skete on Athos.

**March 23:** Venerable-martyr Nikon of Sicily and with him 199 disciples; Venerable-martyr Luke of St. Anne Skete on Athos.

**March 24:** Venerable Zechariah the recluse and Artemon, bishop of Seleucia; New-hieromartyr Partheios, patriarch of Constantinople.

**March 25:** The Annunciation of the Theotokos.



### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Hebrews	6:13-20
Monday	Genesis	13:12-18
Tuesday	Genesis	15:1-15
Wednesday	Genesis	17:1-9
Thursday	Genesis	18:20-33
Friday	Genesis	22:1-18
Saturday	Hebrews	9:1-7
Sunday	Hebrews	9:11-14

### March 18 - 25

Mark	9:17-31
Proverbs	14:27-15:4
Proverbs	15:7-19
Proverbs	15:20-16:9
Proverbs	16:17-17:17
Proverbs	17:17-18:5
Luke	10:38-42, 11:27-28
Mark	10:32-45



**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



**Confessions for Lent** – As you think about making your confession for Lent **please make every effort** to have your confessions heard before the beginning of Holy Week. Fr. Philip and Fr. Alex are available to hear your confession following each service with the exception of the Divine Liturgy, so there are many opportunities. An excellent time to make your confession is during the Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete at compline on the night of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, many people make an appointment to make their confession at a time other than after a service. Just contact the priest to do so.

**Feast of the Annunciation, Sunday, March 25** – We will have a potluck following liturgy to celebrate Annunciation. Fish, wine, and oil are allowed! Any help cleaning up will be greatly appreciated.

**Paschal Nave Cleaning** – We will have our annual Paschal Nave Cleaning on **Thursday, March 22 following 3<sup>rd</sup> hour**. If you are able, please join us - there will be jobs for all ages and abilities!

**St. John Yearbook** – Many memories are made at St. John and we would like to begin commemorating them with an annual yearbook! As 2017 was such a momentous year for our parish, we will begin there. Please share your favorite pictures (2017 - present) with us by emailing them to Buddy Bowick at [WCB4TH@yahoo.com](mailto:WCB4TH@yahoo.com), or you can text them to him at 901-497-0917 (please include your name if texting).

**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, Wednesday Meal Pick Up, Volunteers for Lent through Pascha**

**Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club** – We will meet on March 18th in the church library at 6:30 p.m. The meal is potluck. The book is *The Song of the Sirin*. For those who want to read further *The Curse of the Raven* is the second book in the Raven Son trilogy by Nicholas Kotar.

**Parish Council Update** – Memphis Audio completed the first phase of the design for the acoustic panels. They spent time in the space on Friday making final measurements and we are awaiting the final design and the beginning of work. We are still a few weeks away from completion, but we are moving ahead!

## PLEASE SIGN UP downstairs or online....



- **Annunciation Potluck** assistance
- **Palm Sunday Potluck** assistance
- **Paschal Vigil** – The sign-up sheet is in the parish hall for those wishing to participate in the vigil that is kept from the “Taking Down” Vespers on Holy Friday until the Paschal Service.
- **Decorating & Set Up for Paschal Feast** on Holy Saturday
- **Kitchen assistance for feast**
- **Agape Picnic** on Pascha afternoon
- **Post-Pascha Clean Up** – taking down of bier Bright Week, putting decorations away

### Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

<b>Sunday, 3/18:</b>	Gabriel Flexsenhar, Rick Yadron
<b>Friday, 3/23:</b>	Glenda Brooks
<b>Saturday, 3/24:</b>	Ian Curry

### STOCK UP THE FOOD PANTRY FOR GREAT LENT!

#### Week 1: Feb. 18-24

\*Canned meats:  
Spam  
Vienna Sausages  
Canned chicken  
Tuna

#### Week 2: Feb. 25-Mar. 3

Peanut Butter (*creamy*)  
Crackers

#### Week 3: Mar. 4-10

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

#### Week 4: Mar. 11-17

Dry Items:  
individual cereal boxes  
oatmeal packets  
granola bars or cereal bars  
nabs

#### Week 5: Mar. 18-24

**Toiletries:**  
**Toilet Paper**  
**Toothpaste/toothbrush**  
**Shampoo**

#### Weeks 6: Mar. 25-31

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

\* Many of the patrons of the food pantry are homeless and have no means by 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.

### Library Lines

Today is John Climacus Sunday, but his feast day is March 30. Does St. John Climacus and the Ladder of Divine Ascent have anything to do with Jacob’s Ladder? Read comparisons of these and commentary on them by Sts. Theophan the Recluse in *The Path to Salvation* (PAT THE), p. 319 ff., Isaac the Syrian in *Ascetic Discourses* (PAT ISA) (see index), and in *Sacred Symbols That Speak*, V. 1 by Anthony Coniaris.

John Climacus Sunday is a moveable feast, as are the other Sundays of Lent. The days on which we celebrate them are determined by the date of Pascha. Sts. John Climacus, Gregory Palamas and Mary of Egypt have their own feast days as well. Typically, a saint is commemorated on the day of his death.

St. Nikolai Velimorvich (3/18) is a “modern” church father. His wisdom is recorded in the following books by and about him:

*The Faith of Chosen People* (PAT NIK)

*Kassiana* (HAG NIK)

*The Life of St. Sava* (HAG SAV NIC)

*Mystery and Meaning of the Battle of Kosovo* (PAT NIK)

*Orthodox Christian Journey* (CAT GEN OCPM)

*Prayers by the Lake* (PAT NIK)

*Portraits of American Saints* (HAG - - - GRA)

*The Prolgue from Ochrid* (REF/HAG- - -NIK)

*Recently Canonized Saints* (HAG - - - DEV)

*Serbian Patericon* by Fr. Francis Rogich (HAG- - -ROG)

*Struggle for Faith* (PAT NIK)

*Treasury of Serbian Orthodox Spirituality* (PAT NIK)

From his childhood, St. Cuthbert (3/20), wonderworker of Britain, was shown by angels that he was chosen by God to fulfill a role in the Church. Early in his career he was chosen to become abbot of his monastery and was made later the bishop of Lindisfarne where he was buried. His relics were moved over three times to avoid desecration by the Vikings and others and each time found uncorrupt. He was finally buried in Durham Cathedral near the resting place of the Venerable Bede of Jarrow. Children will enjoy reading his story in *Ravens of Farne: a Tale of Saint Cuthbert* (KID STS CUT).