

From the Fathers (and others):

Let us charge into the good fight with joy and love, without being afraid of our enemies...For the cunning creatures [demons] have observed that we are scared. So let us take up arms against them courageously. No one will fight with a resolute fighter!

St. John of the Ladder

“May my heart be as a fertile field for Thee, and may Thy grace sprinkle the dew of eternal life upon it. May Thy grace reap a good harvest on the field of my heart: humility, reverence, sanctity, and all that is ever pleasing to Thee.”

St Ephraim the Syrian

What we gain by fasting is not so great as the damage done by anger; nor is the profit from reading as great as the harm done when we scorn or grieve a brother or sister.

St. John Cassian

My brethren, do all that is in your power not to fall, for the strong athlete should not fall, but, if you do fall, get up again at once, and continue the contest. Even if you fall a thousand times, because of the withdrawal of God’s grace, rise up again at each time, and keep on doing so until the day of your death. For it is written: ‘If a righteous man falls seven times,’ that is, repeatedly throughout his life, ‘seven times shall he rise again’ [Proverbs 24:16].

St. John of Karpathos

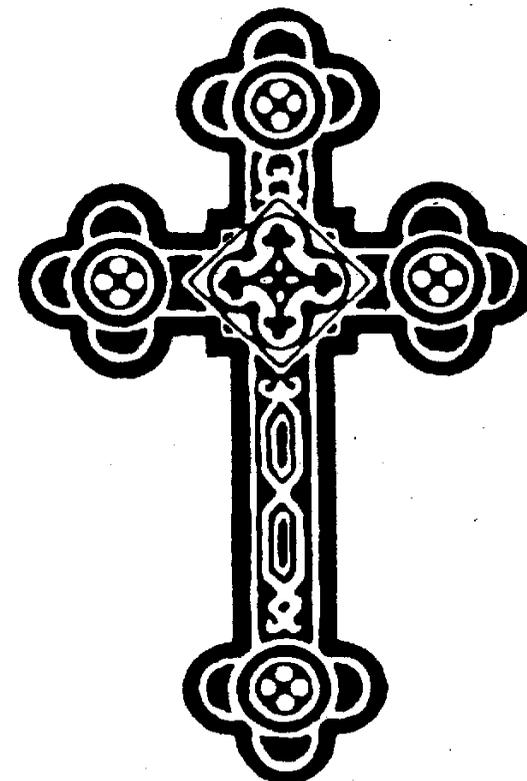
He who would be reconciled to God and have peace with God must first be reconciled with his neighbor.

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

I took no account for all the favors that You did for me, but once again threw myself into the pit, falling among the thieves of the soul. And even though I was happy to be their prisoner, You could not bear to see me making such a spectacle of myself. You had mercy on me and stretched out to me Your immaculate hand.

St Symeon the New Theologian

St. John Orthodox Church



~ March 26, 2017 ~
Leave-taking of Annunciation
John Climacus

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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

March 26, 2017 Leave-taking of Annunciation

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by the **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

March 26 – April 2 (Great Fast)

- Sunday** -Youth Choir practice, coffee hour
-AWSJ Business Meeting, coffee hour
-Vespers, 4:30 p.m.
-Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club, 6:30 p.m., Dn. James' home
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
-Bible Study – Revelations, 7:00 p.m., Ch. 12-14
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m.
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m., Topic: Holy Trinity
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Small Compline with Great Canon, 6:00 p.m., includes the reading of the life of St. Mary of Egypt
-No Parish Meal due to the length of this service
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- 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** -Nave Cleaning Day, 9:00 a.m.
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -Orthros, 9:00 a.m.
-Church School, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

- April 1** **Holy Baptism** of Emma Jane Leopold
- April 2** **Memorials** – Mother Seraphima, 5 years; Jill Healy, 3 years; Esther Longa, 7 years; Paul Parham, 5 years.

DIVINE LITURGY

PRIEST: Fr. Basil
READER: Rod Ratliff
HOLY BREAD: Reem Mansour
ALTAR SERVERS: Zach, Eli, Thomas, Paul, James
COFFEE HOUR:

Sunday, April 2, 10:00 a.m.

HOMILY: Fr. Basil
USHER: Thomas Yadron

COMMEMORATIONS

March 26: The Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; Stephen the Confessor.

March 27: Martyr Matrona of Thessalonika; Martyrs Philetos and Lydia; Paul, bishop of Corinth; Venerable Euthychios.

March 28: Venerable Hilarion the New; Apostle Herodion of the Seventy; Venerable Stephen of Triglia.

March 29: Mark, Bishop of Arethusa; Martyr Cyril the deacon of Heliopolis; Martyrs Jonah and Barachisios; Eustathios the Confessor, bishop of Bithynia.

March 30: Venerable John of Sinai, author of ‘The Ladder;’ New-hieromartyr Zachariah, bishop of Corinth; Sophronios, bishop of Irkutsk.

March 31: Hypatios the wonder-worker, bishop of Gangra; Venerable Akakios the Confessor, bishop of Melitene; Prophet Joel; repose of Innocent, metropolitan of Moscow, enlightener of the Aleuts and apostle to America; repose of Jonah, metropolitan of Moscow.

April 1: Venerable Mary of Egypt; Martyrs Geontios and Basileidos; Venerable Euthymios, wonder-worker of Suzdal.

April 2: Venerable Titos the wonder-worker; Virgin-martyr Theodora of Palestine; Martyrs Aidesios and Panayiotis.



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 26 – April 2

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 –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), Caitlyn Maas (pregnant), Lawrence Elliott (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, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), 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 you 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 29th. 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.

Paschal Nave Cleaning –We will have our annual Paschal Nave Cleaning on **April 1**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and lasting until we are finished. Make plans now to assist in preparing our nave for Pascha. There will be jobs for all ages and abilities!

Monday Bible Study –Fr. Philip is leading a Bible study on the book of Revelations following Compline on Mondays during Lent. He will be covering chapters 12-14 this week if you would like prepare ahead of time.

Youth Choir will be rehearsing again this week for about 20 minutes after Liturgy. If you are 6+ and weren’t able to make it last week you are more than welcome to join us on Sunday. “Above, the hosts of angels sing praise; below men and women form choirs in the churches and imitate them by singing the same doxology...The inhabitants of heaven and earth are brought together in a common assembly; there is one thanksgiving, one shout of delight, one joyful chorus.” – St John Chrysostom

Sons of Thunder Men’s Book Club will meet on March 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Dn. James’ home.

Online Donations – You may now make your tithes and donations to the new parish hall online! Simply click on the “Donate” button on the right hand side of the homepage of the St. John website (underneath the calendar).

Wednesday Lenten Meals – There is one final date available to cook a Lenten meal this year, **April 13, Holy Thursday**, following Vespertal Divine Liturgy. If you would like to provide this meal, please contact Trish in the office or sign up online.

Master Plan Updates

Progress on building – Thank God! The framing has begun! They built the retaining wall on the east side of the building and have dug the sidewalk. The walls have begun to take shape and it won’t be long before we see a roof and things really take shape. The framing should take the rest of next week to finish.

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, 3/26:	Michael Sanderlin, Vladimir Drobashevsky <i>Archangel Gabriel: Ben Hodges, Gabby Sneed, Gabriel Martin, Gabe de la Torre</i>
Tuesday, 3/28:	Chris Boone, Andrew Labonte
Wednesday, 3/29:	Jim Long, Sarah Parker, Lucy Hight, Sophia Yarbro
Thursday, 3/30:	Maggie Turner
Friday, 3/31:	Monica Rustom, Elijah White
Saturday, 4/1:	Maya Ibrahim <i>St. Mary of Egypt: Kh. Susan, Lori O'Brien, Moriah Crum, Mary Wren Williams, Jennifer Stanek</i>

PLEASE SIGN UP downstairs or online....



- **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. Sign up early to get the time you want!
- **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

Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

March 26	AWSJ Business Meeting , coffee hour
April 6	Women’s Teaching , 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home
April 21	Painting Party - details to come
April 27	Women’s Discussion Group , 6:30 p.m., Lynda Spinolo’s home. Please bring appetizer, dessert or beverages to share!
May 1	AWSJ Book Club will be discussing <i>Ascent to the Summit...the Life and Martyric Death of Igor Rozin</i>

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.

Monday we commemorate the Icon of the Mother of God of Mt. Athos, "Sweet Kissing" (3/27). During the ninth century, it belonged to the pious wife of an iconoclast senator. He ordered her to burn it so she threw it into the sea. It stayed standing upright on the waves and appeared near Mt. Athos several years later. The Theotokos appeared to the monks and told them of its arrival. This icon is one of the Eleousa categories (*Virgin of Tenderness*) icons in which the Christ child shows affection to his Mother. It's also commemorated on Bright Monday. Read more about this icon and others of the Theotokos in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and Prayers for her Intercessions* (ART ICO KHO).

Matrona of Thessalonica (3/27) was the slave of a woman named Pautila who mocked her for her faith. When Matrona's owner discovered she had been secretly attending church, she beat her and locked her in a closet for a few days. The saint was found unharmed and at prayer when the servants opened the closet. Pautila beat her harder and left her shut up longer, but the same thing happened again. The third time, Pautila flogged her, tearing the skin in strips from her body. The martyr gave her soul to God and her body was thrown off the roof. Other Christians found her body and gave it a proper burial, where a church was later built. St. Matrona was martyred in the 3rd or 4th century.

Thursday is the commemoration of an event given greater attention in December. It's the day we remember the meeting of the Theotokos and Saint Elizabeth (3/30). However, sometimes it's a moveable feast. When it falls between Lazarus Saturday and Pascha, it is celebrated on Bright Friday. How fitting it is that our Holy Mother Church remembers events surrounding the Incarnation during Great Lent.

You don't have to be around here too long before you begin to hear or read about the Optina Elders. Just who are these men and what is Optina? Optina Monastery, south of Moscow, renewed the hesychastic tradition in 18th century Russia. Enrich your life by uncovering the lives and wisdom of these men in:

<i>The Orthodox Word</i>	#117 Jul-Aug 1984 pp. 148 & 156
	#122 May-Jun 1985 pp. 125 & 129
	#267 Jul-Aug 2009 pp. 157 & 199
	#290 May-Jun 2013 pp. 105
<i>Road to Emmaus</i>	#44 Winter 2011 p. 3.

St. John Library also offers books about and by Elders Anatoly (1/25), Nektary (4/29), Anthony (8/7), Barsanuphius (4/1), Joseph (5/9), Leonid (10/11), Macarius (9/7), and Moses (6/16). Check out *Living Without Hypocrisy* (PAT - - - OPT) where you will find their spiritual counsels arranged by subject. Look up their names in the library's subject catalog to find books about each of them.