

From the Fathers (and others):

... there are... neutral riches, that is, those which can prove to be either good or bad. They lean to one or the other, depending on the will and character of those making use of them. The blessed apostle had this to say about them: "Give a warning to those rich in this world's goods that they must not look down on other people. They must not put their hope in the uncertainty of riches but, rather, on God who generously pours all we need out to us. Tell them to do good, to practice good works, to be generous, to store up for themselves in the future a solid treasure with which they may acquire a true life' (I Tim. 6:17-19).

St. John Cassian

If you offer fasting with humility and with mercy, your bones, as Isaiah said, shall be fat, and you shall be like a well-watered garden (cf. Isa. 58:11). So, then, your soul shall grow fat and its virtues also by the spiritual richness of fasting, and your fruits shall be multiplied by the fertility of your mind, so that there may be in you the inebriation of soberness, like that cup of which the Prophet says: 'Your cup which inebriates, how excellent it is' (Ps. 23:5 LXX)!

St. Ambrose

When reading the Holy Scriptures, he who is humble and engaged in spiritual work will apply everything to himself, and not to someone else.

St. Mark the Ascetic

"It is detestable and dangerous for a wrestler to be slack at the start of a contest, thereby giving proof of his impending defeat to everyone. Let us have a firm beginning to our religious life, for this will help us if a certain slackness comes later. A bold and eager soul will be spurred on by the memory of its first zeal and new wings can then be obtained." --

St. John Climacus

What I see around me would drive me insane, if I did not know that — no matter what happens — God will have the last word.

St. Paisios of the Holy Mountain

We know that prayer in and of itself cannot save us, but carrying it out before God can. For when the Lord's eyes are upon us He sanctifies us, as the sun warms everything upon which it shines.

St. Gregory Palamas

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ March 4, 2018 ~

2nd Sunday of Lent

Commemoration of Gregory Palamas

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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 Gregory Palamas

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Lavinia Dumitrache**.

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 4 – 11 (Great Fast)

- Sunday** -Teen Group
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
-Bible Study, Book of James, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Crosstown
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Presanctified Liturgy. 6:00 p.m.
-Lenten Meal, following Liturgy, provided by Thea Wallace
- 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** -Ninth Hour & Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -Orthros & Church School, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY – Exaltation of the Cross

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

- PRIEST:** Fr. Philip
- READER:** Jack Turner
- USHER:** Bill Harter
- HOLY BREAD:** Lori O'Brien
- ALTAR SERVERS:** Pavel, Max, Brody, Paul, volunteer
- COFFEE HOUR:** Karen Bell, Stephanie Harants, volunteer

Churching Today

Janine & Dorothy Smith

*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).

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

March 6: The 42 martyrs of Amoria in Phrygia; discovery of the precious cross and nails by St. Helena; Venerable Fridolin, enlightener of the Upper Rhine.

March 7: The Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Kapiton, Elpidios, Agathodoros and Aetherios; Venerable Laurence; Venerable Paul the Simple, disciple of Venerable Anthony the Great.

March 8: Theophylaktos, bishop of Nicomedia; Apostle Hermas of the Seventy.

March 9: The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste.

March 10: Kodratos of Corinth and his five companions; Anastasia the patrician of Alexandria; New-martyr Michael of Thessalonika.

March 11: Sophronios, patriarch of Jerusalem; Martyrs Thallo and Trophimos; Venerable George of Sinai; Theodora the empress; repose of Euthymios, bishop of Novgorod.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Hebrews	1:10-2:3
Monday	Genesis	6:9-22
Tuesday	Genesis	7:1-5
Wednesday	Genesis	7:6-9
Thursday	Genesis	7:11-8:3
Friday	Genesis	8:4-21
Saturday	Hebrews	10:32-38
Sunday	Hebrews	4:14-5:6

March 4 - 11

Mark	2:1-12
Proverbs	8:1-21
Proverbs	8:32-9:11
Proverbs	9:12-18
Proverbs	10:1-22
Proverbs	10:31-11:12
Mark	2:14-17
Mark	8:34-9:1



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



Becoming Truly Human - St John is co-sponsoring with Annunciation and St George a screening of the Orthodox Feature Film, *Becoming Truly Human*. This documentary film explores the so-called 'nones,' those who claim no religious affiliation. The screenings will be held at 3 different Malco Theaters: **Malco Forest Hills, Tuesday, April 24 @ 7 pm; Malco Studio on the Square, Wednesday, April 25 @ 7 pm; and Cordova Town Cinema, Thursday, April 26 @ 7 pm.** There is no cost, but a ticket is required. You can follow the link for tickets on our website. Mark your calendars, spread the word and invite a friend!

Bible Study - For the next two Mondays, there will be a Bible Study on the book of James following Great Compline. Join us for fruitful discussion of the Scriptures!

St. Thekla Choir – The St. Thekla choir will meet for rehearsal with Fr. Alex following liturgy.

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, or you can text them to him at 901-497-0917 (please include your name if texting).

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!!

Wednesday Lenten Meals - If you would like to provide a meal following Presanctified Liturgy on **April 5 (Holy Thursday)**, please contact Trish in the office or sign up on the website.

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, Lenten Meals**

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 is completing their design and model for the acoustic panels in St. Raphael Hall. We should have the design by next week. Once the design is approved, there is a 4-6 week timeframe for the panels to be installed. Thank you for your patience! In addition, two of the 4 units in our new building have been rented and tenants will take occupancy this weekend. May God continue to protect our investment!

REGULAR ALMS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Birthright ✦ St. John Alms Fund ✦ St. Brigid Food Pantry ✦ St. John Camping Fund ✦
✦ Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Mission Fund ✦ Michael & Abigail Bittle Fund

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 3/4: Elliott Longa, Jacob White
Tuesday, 3/6: Fr. John, Irene Hodges
Thursday, 3/8: Kh. Susan
Friday, 3/9: Kh. Amanda
Anniversary: Tim & Lawrence Elliott
St. Aglius: Buddy Bowick

Women of St. John Calendar

March 15 **Women's Teaching** - 10:00 a.m., Sarah Hodges' home

May 7 **AWSJ Book Club** – *Catherine of Sienna* by Sigrid Undset

Thank you from Nelvia Agnew: See the bulletin board downstairs to read the Thank You note from Nelvia to the Women of St. John.

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

Do you get the St. Gregorys mixed up? Today is the feast day of Gregory Palamas. He is a 14th century saint who is known as a teacher of hesychasm and as an apologist of Orthodoxy. Discover more about him in these St. John Library books:

The Lives of the Pillars of Orthodoxy REF HAG HOL
Saint Gregory Palamas As a Hagiorite by Metropolitan of Nafpakos
Hierotheos HAG GRE HIE
St. Gregory Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality by John Meyendorff PAT COM GRE
A Study of Gregory Palamas by John Meyendorff HAG GRE MEY

St. John the Bulgarian (3/5) was influenced in his childhood by his Moslem friends and renounced Christ. At age sixteen he came to his senses, fled to Mt. Athos and placed himself under the direction of an elder. Three years later, he journeyed to a mosque in Constantinople, publicly prayed, declared his devotion to Christ and renounced Mohammed. He was beheaded at age 19 in 1784. Read more about him in *New Martyrs of the Turkish Yoke* (HAG - - - PAP).

Monday we also commemorate St. Konon the Gardener (3/5). Actually, our Holy, Wise Church honors several other gardeners, among them are St. Kristo (2/12) and St. Phocas (9/22) besides St. Konon. How appropriate it is that we honor men who humbly work the earth to bring forth food, herbs and flowers for sustenance for our bodies and beauty for our souls. St. Konon was born in Nazareth and died a martyr's death around 250 A.D. St. Phocas aided the poor with his produce. He accidentally happened upon men sent to arrest him for being a Christian. He gave them hospitality, made arrangements for his possessions to be given to the needy, and dug his own grave. When his captors saw this, they tried to spare him, but he refused and was beheaded. St. Kristo the Albanian was also beheaded by Moslems for refusing to renounce Christ. His life is chronicled also in *New Martyrs of the Turkish Yoke* (HAG - - - PAP).

St. Paul the Simple (3/7) discovered his wife in sin with another and dispassionately left her. He went into the desert and begged St. Anthony to accept him as a monk. St. Anthony refused him because of his age and the harshness of the life he was seeking. The simple man remained outside his hut for three days saying he would rather die than go elsewhere. Finally, he admitted the saint, testing him arduously. He lived a long life and performed many miracles. St. John of the Ladder said "he was the rule and type of blessed simplicity..."