

From the Fathers (and others):

Scripture continually assigns 'seven' as the number of the remission of sins. 'How often,' it is asked, 'shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Till seven times?' Then comes the Lord's answer, 'I say not to you until seven times, but, until seventy times seven' (Mt. 18:21-22). Our Lord did not vary the number, but multiplied the seven, and so fixed the limit of the forgiveness. After seven years the Hebrew used to be freed from slavery (cf. Dt. 5:12). Seven weeks of years used in old times to make the famous Jubilee (cf. Lev. 25:10), in which the land rested, debts were remitted, slaves were set free, and, as it were, a new life began over again, the old life from age to age being in a sense completed at the number seven.

St. Basil the Great

The Lord does nothing without the Father, for He says, 'I can do nothing of Myself' (Jn. 5:30), so do you, neither presbyter, nor deacon, nor layman, do anything without the bishop. Nor let anything appear commendable to you which is contrary to his judgment. For every such thing is sinful, and opposed to the will of God. Do come into the same place for prayer. Let there be one common supplication, one mind, one hope, with faith unblameable in Christ Jesus, than which nothing is more excellent. All of you, as one man, run together into the temple of God, to one altar, to one Jesus Christ, the High Priest of the unbegotten God.

St. Ignatius of Antioch

If you fast regularly, do not be inflated with pride, but if you think highly of yourself because of it, then you had better eat meat. It is better for a man to eat meat than to be inflated with pride and to glorify himself.

Abba Isidore the priest
The Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Someone asked Abba Anthony, 'What must one do in order to please God?' The old man replied, 'Pay attention to what I tell you: whoever you may be, always have God before your eyes; whatever you do, do it according to the testimony of the holy Scriptures; in whatever place you live, do not easily leave it. Keep these three precepts and you will be saved.'

Abba Anthony
The Sayings of the Desert Father

Abba Anthony said to Abba Poemen, 'This is the great work of a man: always to take the blame for his own sins before God and to expect temptation to his last breath.'

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ March 5, 2017 ~
Sunday of Orthodoxy*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers
Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman
Associate Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul
Assistant Pastor

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

March 5, 2017 Sunday of Orthodoxy

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

Gospel: John 1:43-51

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by the **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 5 – 12 (Great Fast)

- Sunday** - Vespers, 4:30 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
-Bible Study – Revelations, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m., Prayer, Dn. James
-Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 p.m.
-Parish meal following liturgy
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home
- 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 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.**

DIVINE LITURGY – Gregorgy Palamas

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

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	Matt Spinolo	USHER:	Dan O'Brien
HOLY BREAD:	Janine Smith		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Pavel, Trent, Nicholas, Max, Alex		
COFFEE HOUR:	Anna Pashchinskaya, Kate Kumar, Lynda Spinolo		

*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 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.

March 12: Venerable Theophanes the Confessor of Sigriane; Gregory the Dialogist, pope of Rome; Venerable Simeon the New Theologian; Righteous Phineas.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Monday Bible Study – *New this Lent* – Beginning tomorrow, Fr. Philip will lead a Bible study on the book of Revelations following Compline on Mondays during Lent. He will be covering chapters 1-3 if you would like prepare ahead of time.

Youth Choir at St. John - The Time Has Come!!! Starting **Sunday, March 19th** following liturgy we will be having our first Youth Choir rehearsal at church. Come join us (ages 6 and up) as we practice two hymns we'll be singing on Palm Sunday. We will meet with Fr. Alex after the kids have a quick snack (20 minutes) at coffee hour. "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

30th Anniversary of Clergy Ordinations – We will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the ordinations of Fr. John, Fr. Basil, Dn. James, Dn. Charles, Dn. Tim, and Dn. Sidney, as well as the Chrismations of the original members, on Wednesday, March 15th. Join us!

Wednesday Lenten Meals - As has been our tradition, each Wednesday following Presanctified Liturgy we enjoy a meal prepared by one or more of our parishioners. If you would like to provide one of these meals, please contact Trish in the office or sign up downstairs in the parish hall. The dates are: **March 8 and April 13 (Holy Thursday)**

Lenten Handouts - The *newly updated* Lenten booklets are now available downstairs in the parish hall.

Master Plan Updates – The rain slowed us down a little bit this week, but they continue to make progress. The stairs leading to our courtyard have been built and the concrete poured. The plumbers came out and began the process of installing the proper piping for the kitchen and bathrooms. Soon we will see the slab! O Holy Father, Raphael, pray unto God for us!

Fund raising – Thank you for your help thus far!! There are pledge cards for the building fund available downstairs. Every little bit helps!

<u>DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS</u>			<u>March 5 - 12</u>	
Sunday	Hebrews	11:24-26, 32-12:2	John	1:43-51
Monday	Genesis	3:21-4:7	Proverbs	3:34-4:22
Tuesday	Genesis	4:8-15	Proverbs	5:1-15
Wednesday	Genesis	4:16-26	Proverbs	5:15-6:3
Thursday	Genesis	28:10-17	Proverbs	9:1-11
Friday	Hebrews	2:11-18	Luke	1:24-38
Saturday	Hebrews	2:2-10	Luke	10:16-21
Sunday	Hebrews	1:10-2:3	Mark	2:1-12

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), 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.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Monday, 3/6:	Fr. John, Irene Hodges, David Iconaru
Wednesday, 3/8:	Kh. Susan
Thursday, 3/9:	Kh. Amanda
	Anniversary: Tim & Lawrence Elliott

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

- March 12** Churching of Angela and Emma Jane Leopold
March 19 Memorial – 40 days for Elias Mansour
Soup Kitchen, First Presbyterian Church
March 24 Orthros for Annunciation, 5:00 p.m.
Divine Liturgy for Annunciation, 6:00 p.m.
Potluck Dinner to follow liturgy. Fish, wine & oil allowed!
April 1 Holy Baptism of Emma Jane Leopold
April 2 Memorials – Jill Healy, 3 years; Esther Longa, 7 years; Paul Parham, 5 years
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The Women of St. John are invited to a

Baby Shower

honoring

Chelsea Yadron

Sunday, March 19
at the home of Lori O'Brien
2205 Cross Drive, Memphis

Chelsea is registered at Target.

Contact Margaret McKelroy if you would like to contribute to the group gift.



Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

- March 9** ~Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home
March 19 ~SAVE THE DATE~ Baby Shower for Chelsea Yadron
April 21 ~Painting Party - details to come
April 27 ~Women's Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m., Lynda Spinolo's home
May 1 ~AWSJ Book Club will be discussing *Ascent to the Summit...the Life and Martyric Death of Igor Rozin*

Library Lines

You know what we do on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, but do you know why? Our tradition dates back to events in the 8th century. Visit St. John Library and read about the Iconoclast controversy. Look for *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* by Leo Davis (HIS DAV), *Bible and Church History* by Fr. Thomas Hopko (CAT GEN HOP) and *The Church Year* (CAT SAC CH) in *The Celebration of Faith* series also by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

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).

Today 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..."

Many martyrs are commemorated individually; however, there are several groups who are remembered not only on their feast days, but throughout the year as the Church prays. The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste are commemorated March 9. They were a band of soldiers who were distinguished for bravery. During the reign of Licinius in 313, they were imprisoned for refusing to sacrifice to idols. As punishment they were cast into a lake during severely cold weather. A warm bath-house was erected on the shore to tempt them. One could not withstand the cold and ran on shore. As a great light hovered over them and crowns appeared over their heads, Agglais, one of the guards, joined them in the water and asked God to add him to their number, making him worthy to suffer with them. They were then led out of the lake and their legs were broken. Their bodies were burned and the bones tossed into the lake. Three days later they appeared to the bishop and told him to gather their remains at night and bury them with honor. These men are just one example to us of Christians sharing in each others' suffering with love. These men are mentioned in every marriage service, the Paraklesis to the Mother of God and other services of our Church.