

From the Fathers (and others):

“He began to understand, based on his own experience, that being a Christian meant waging a constant and merciless battle against evil and death in one’s own heart, a battle with no front lines and no cease-fires, in which the enemy neither sleeps nor tires.”

The Life of Elder Thaddeus

One of the Fathers said, “The eyes of pigs have a natural conformation which makes them turn toward the ground and they can never look up to heaven, so is the soul of one who lets himself be carried away by pleasure. Once the soul is allowed to slip into the slough of enjoyment, she can no longer get out again.”

Wisdom of the Desert Fathers

“The fruits of the earth are not brought to perfection immediately, but by time, rain and care; similarly, the fruits of men ripen through ascetic practice, study, time, perseverance, self-control and patience.”

St. Anthony the Great

“A dog is better than I am, for he has love and he does not judge.”

Abba Xanthios

“Only the benumbed soul doesn't pray. Preserve in yourselves the feeling of need, and you will always have stimulation for prayer.”

St. Theophan the Recluse

“A servant of the Lord is he who in body stands before men, but in mind knocks at heaven with prayer.”

St. John Climacus

“He removed grace from you so that you may become wise. But it will come again. It does not abandon you. This is a law of God. But it will leave again. Yet once more it will come. As long as you don't stop seeking it, it will keep coming and going until it renders you perfect.”

Elder Joseph the Hesychast

“The Love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together.”

St. John Chrysostom
Homily 20 on Ephesians

St. John Orthodox Church



~ April 10, 2016 ~
John Climacus

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.
Pastor

Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers
Assistant Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman
Associate 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

April 10, 2016 John Climacus

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Sarah Hodges**.

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

April 10 - 17 (*Great Fast)

- Sunday** -Vespers, 4:30 p.m.
-Teen Group, Movie Night, 5:00 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Great Compline, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Parish Council, 7:00 p.m.
-*NO Catechumen/Inquirers Class*
- 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, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday** -Paschal Nave Cleaning, 9:00 a.m.
-Choir Practice, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -Orthros, 8:45 a.m.
-Church School, 9:00 a.m.
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

Upcoming at St. John...

Memorials Today:

Esther Longa, 6 years; Paul Parham, 4 years

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, April 17, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. John	HOMILY:	Fr. John
READER:	Matt Spinolo	USHER:	John Sneed
HOLY BREAD:	Trish Ratliff		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Joe, Pavel, Trent, Max		
COFFEE HOUR:	Nawar & Reem Mansour, Anne Dugan		
WELCOME TEAM:	David Twombly		

Women of St. John Calendar

- May 9** **Book Club**, 7:00 p.m. *Everyday Saints* by Arch. Tikhon Shevkunov
- May 12** **Women's Teaching**, 10:00 a.m.
- May 14** **Co-Ed Wedding Shower** for Thomas Yadron & Chelsea Tabor

COMMEMORATIONS

April 10: Martyrs Terence and Pompeios of Carthage together with Alexander and their forty companions; New-hieromartyr Gregory V, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Demas of Smyrna.

April 11: Hieromartyr Antypas, bishop of Pergamum; Venerable Tryphainis; Kallinikos of Cernica, bishop of Rimnicului in Romania.

April 12: Basil the Confessor, bishop of Parium; Venerable Anthusa of Constantinople; Venerable Akakios the Younger, founder of Kafsokalyvia skete on Athos.

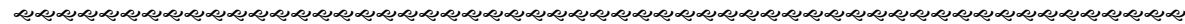
April 13: Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome; Martyr Eleutherios of Persia; Martyrs Zoilos of Rome and Theodosios; Hieromartyr Artemon, presbyter of Laodicea in Syria.

April 14: Apostles Aristarchos, Pudens and Trophymos of the Seventy; Martyr Thomais of Alexandria; New-martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos.

April 15: Martyr Crescens of Myra in Lycia; Hieromartyr Leonidas, bishop of Athens.

April 16: Martyr Leonidas, Charissa, Niki, Galina and Thodota of Corinth; Virgin-martyrs Irene, Agape and Chionia of Illyria; New-martyr Michael of Smyrna; Venerable-martyr Christopher of Dionysiou monastery on Athos; Hieromartyr Nikita of St. Anne Skete on Athos.

April 17: Hieromartyr Simeon, bishop in Persia; Martyr Adrian of Corinth; Agapitos, pope of Rome, Makarios, archbishop of Corinth; Venerable Zosimas of Solovky; uncovering of the relics of Venerable Alexander of Svir.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 10 - 17

Sunday	Hebrews	6:13-20	Mark	9:17-31
Monday	Genesis	13:12-18	Proverbs	14:27-15:4
Tuesday	Genesis	15:1-15	Proverbs	15:7-19
Wednesday	Genesis	17:1-9	Proverbs	15:20-16:9
Thursday	Genesis	18:20-33	Proverbs	16:17-17:17
Friday	Genesis	22:1-18	Proverbs	17:17-18:5
Saturday	Hebrews	9:1-7	Luke	10:38-42, 11:27-28
Sunday	Hebrews	9:11-14	Mark	10:32-45



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis - Ben Arthur, Joseph Gross, and Michael Hill.

Please remember in your prayers: Shirley Gore (Judy Terry’s mother), Effie Johnson (Kh. Susan’s mother), Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Charles Ingram, Ted Greathouse (Shelley Snowden’s father), Allen Sudduth (Paul’s father), Janet Berry, Lydia Tampanaric (Tupelo), Nicholas Hill, Mary Sue Johnson (Jason Guntharpe’s grandmother), Julie Hight (pregnant), Christina Moore (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), Brenda Thomas, Doris & Jim (Brenda Thomas’ family), Kera White, Dot Lawson (Lawson Bowick’s grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha’s daughter), Glenda Brooks, Naomi Young (Chelsea Tabor’s grandmother), Anna Grace (Joyce Grossman’s granddaughter), those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Catechumen/Inquirers Class – Catechumen class **will not meet** on Tuesday due to the Parish Council meeting.

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. John and Fr. Philip 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 April 13th. 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.

Coffee Hour – There are numerous slots still available for Coffee Hour hosts. If you are able to serve in this capacity, please sign up online or contact Anna Pashchinskaya. Links for all sign ups can be found on our website under “Parish – Online Sign Ups and Assignments.”

Paschal Nave Cleaning – We will have our annual Paschal Nave Cleaning on **April 16**, 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!

Parish Life Conference 2016 (PLC) – This year the PLC is being hosted by our sister parish in Pensacola, FL, June 15-18. Information including hotel and conference registration is available online site <http://antiochianevents.com/miami.html>.

The **Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club** will be meeting Sunday April 17 at 6:30, at Brandon Maas's home. We will be discussing *Laurus* by Eugene Vodolazkin. All men are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Brandon Maas at brndnmaas@gmail.com.

Wednesday Lenten Meals – If you would like to provide the parish Lenten meal on **April 28 (Holy Thursday)**, please contact Trish in the office.

Memphis Redbirds – Join us on Thursday evening, June 2 as we support our Memphis as they Redbirds play against the New Orleans Zephyrs. Tickets are \$16.50 each and include a hat and hot dog. There is a sign up list available downstairs as well as an online link on the website.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 4/10	Sarah Hodges
Monday, 4/11	Joyce Bittle, Luigi Icanaru
Tuesday, 4/12	Raluca Cracium
Wednesday, 4/13	Gabby Sneed, Betsy Larker
Thursday, 4/14	Bill Harter, Soren Ortwein, Dennis Daley
Friday, 4/15	Tekla Haymanot

PLEASE SIGN UP downstairs or online....



- **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!
- **Kitchen Clean Up** on Holy Friday
- **Set Up for Pascha** on Holy Saturday
- **Mageritsa Soup preparation** on Holy Saturday
- **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

MASTER PLAN NOTES AND UPDATES

Copies of the minutes from the Special Assembly are in the parish hall. These have been forwarded to His Eminence, and we hope to hear shortly that we have his blessing to proceed. The vote overwhelmingly approved the master plan and the parish’s desire to proceed. **A number of parishioners have already begun making their monthly contributions toward their commitment.** As of last Wednesday, here are our financial commitments to the master plan:

	Goal	Committed	%	Already Collected
One time gifts	\$300,000	\$323,047	107.7%	\$45,862
Monthly mortgage	\$4,611	\$3,956	85.8%	\$1,767

Households committing 57.9%

Remember - every level of commitment helps! No commitment is too small. \$5 a month is meaningful!! May God give the best result!

Fr John



The AWSJ invites the Parishioners of St. John to a

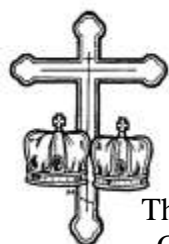
Wedding Shower

honoring

Thomas Yadron and Chelsea Tabor

Saturday, May 14th following Vespers

Thomas & Chelsea are registered at Target and Bed, Bath, and Beyond Contact Kh. Pamela if you would like to contribute to the group gift.



LIBRARY LINES

Today is John Climacus Sunday, but his feast day was 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. Africanus (4/10) hailed from Carthage, a city of several saints of whom St. Cyprian (8/31) was the most famous. Emperor Decius had ordered the citizens to sacrifice to idols. Those who refused were raked with hot irons and their wounds were rubbed with many irritants. The emperor knew that Africanus and his companions were influential in leading others to Christ, so he showed their bodies to them hoping to make them renounce Jesus from fear. They refuse and were put in chains and left to starve. They remained healthy so sorcerers locked them in a dungeon with snakes. The next day they opened the door and the men were unharmed. The snakes slithered to the door and bit the sorcerers. Africanus and the friends were then beheaded.

Wednesday we commemorate a young Christian wife. Thomais (4/13) was a devout child who loved reading spiritual books. She was married at age fifteen to a Christian fisherman. She was well loved and respected by her husband’s family with whom they lived. One night when Thomais’s husband was working, the evil one ensnared her father-in-law to seduce her. She rebuffed him and he killed her with a sword. Her body was buried in a monastic cemetery. Her intercession is asked by those struggling with sexual passions.

Often we hear references to The Seventy. We know about Sts. Timothy, Stephen, Titus, Cleopas, Luke, and Mark; however, many of them are not familiar to us. St. Aristarchus (4/15) is mentioned several times in the Book of Acts and the Epistles of St. Paul. He traveled with St. Paul and was a bishop in Syria. All of them are commemorated on January 4 on the Synaxis of the Seventy.

More new books on the Theotokos and other devotional reading for your Lenten journey!!! You'll find them on the display cart.

2016 Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints and Fasting Calendar (HAG - - - MIT)

Beauty for Ashes: the Spiritual Transformation of a Modern Greek Community (HIS LLO)

Communion of Love, The by Matthew the Poor (CAT GEN MAT)

Elder Cleopa of Sihastria by Archm. Ioanaichie Balan (HAG CLE BAL)

How to Live a Holy Life by Met. Gregory of St. Petersburg (SPR LIV GRE)

The Jesus We Missed: the Surprising Truth about the Humanity of Christ by Fr. Patrick Reardon (SCR COM REA)

Mary as the Early Christians Knew Her by Frederica Mathewes-Green (CAT MAR MAT)

Mary: Ever-Virginity and the Bible (CAT MAR SUC)

Orthodoxy: Catholicism without Additions and Protestantism without Subtraction (CAT GEN SUC)

Wise Lives: Orthodox Christian Reflections on The Wisdom of Sirach by Fr. Patrick Reardon (SCR COM REA)