

From the Fathers (and others):

Liturgy is not a rigid thing to be repeated unconsciously. It is an expression of the human need to talk to the Lord, and to thank Him for His grace. Liturgy is spirit and life running through the veins of the body of the Church, and nurturing all its members. It revives the Church, the community and the individuals with the grace that is bestowed upon it. Hence, we are here before a precious gem. We should polish it and reveal its glorious face, stressing the essence of the liturgical practice which leads the believer to grow in Christ. It is therefore important to resort to all tools that enable the people to reach the depth of this inspiring liturgy, that they may take from it that which will help them attain salvation and understanding of the mystery of God.

His Beatitude, Patriarch JOHN X

“Be the guardian of the eye that it might not look about in the manner of a thief; be the guardian of the ear, that it might not perceive falsehood. Be the guardian of the lips that slander, judgment, criticism and idle words might not come forth from them. Be the guardian of the heart that it might not be inclined to evil and might not work iniquity.”

St Ephraim the Syrian

Keep the Feast of the Resurrection. Be a Peter or a John; hasten to the Sepulchre, running together, running against one another, vying in the noble race (cf. Jn. 20:3-4). And even if you be beaten in speed, win the victory of zeal; not looking into the tomb, but going in.

St. Gregory the Theologian

And we in receiving baptism, in imitation of our Lord and teacher and guide, are not indeed buried in the earth (for this is the shelter of the body that is entirely dead, covering the infirmity and decay of our nature), but coming to the element akin to earth, to water, we conceal ourselves in that as the Savior did in the earth: and by doing this thrice we represent for ourselves that grace of the resurrection which was wrought in three days.

St. Gregory of Nyssa

For in the baptismal rite, death ensues through the slaying of sin; threefold immersion initiates the lying in the tomb three days, and the raising out of the water is like him that rose again from the tomb. The very nature, therefore, of the act teaches us that that is the recognized day for the general reception of the grace, on which the power of the gift and the character of the action originated.

St. Leo the Great

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ April 15, 2018 ~
Thomas Sunday

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

Thomas Sunday

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

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

April 15-22 (F,W,O)

Sunday -
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Parish Meal, 5:30 p.m.
-Wednesday teaching, 6:15 p.m.
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
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.
Saturday -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -Orthros & Church School, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

MEMORIAL

Leonid Harbert

DIVINE LITURGY – Myrrh Bearing Women Sunday, April 22, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. John
READER: John Cameron
HOLY BREAD: Judy Terry
USHER: Dan O'Brien
ALTAR SERVERS: Pavel, Max, Brody, Paul, Volunteer
COFFEE HOUR: HELP NEEDED

* **Fasting Note:** With the blessing of the Synod of Antioch, a katalysis for fish, wine and oil is granted for all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Pentecostarion (the period between Pascha and Pentecost).

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

April 18: Venerable John, disciple of Gregory of Decapolis; Venerable Euthymios and Athanasios of Aegina; Cosmas the Confessor, bishop of Chalcedon; New-martyr John of Epiros; Venerable Euthymios, enlightener of Karelia.

April 19: Hieromartyr Paphnoutios of Jerusalem; Tryphon, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable-martyr Agathangelos of Esphigmenou monastery on Athos; Venerable Simeon of Philotheou monastery on Athos; Venerable John of Old Lavra in Palestine.

April 20: Venerable Theodore ‘the hair-shirt wearer’; Venerable Athanasios and Joasaph of Meteora; Apostle Zaccheos, bishop of Caesarea.

April 21: Hieromartyr Januarios, bishop of Benevento; Venerable Maximos and Anastasios.

April 22: Theodore Sykeote, bishop of Anastasiopolis; Apostle Nathanael; Martyr Nearchos; Vsevolod, prince of Psov; Martyr Epipodios of Lyons.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 15-22

Sunday	Acts	5:12-20	John	20:19-31
Monday	Acts	3:19-26	John	2:1-11
Tuesday	Acts	4:1-10	John	3:16-21
Wednesday	Acts	4:13-22	John	5:17-24
Thursday	Acts	4:23-31	John	5:24-30
Friday	Acts	5:1-11	John	5:30-47; 6:1-2
Saturday	Acts	5:21-32	John	6:14-27
Sunday	Acts	6:1-7	John	15:43-47; 16:1-8



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis –Calen and Katherine Verbist.

Please remember in your prayers - Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Nicholas Hill, Chelsea Yadron (pregnant), Julie Hight (pregnant), Anne Katherine Vanlandingham (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), 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), Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Contributions to Agape Picnic - If you would still like to donate toward the picnic, you may do so. You may write a check with “Agape Picnic” in the memo line.

Coffee Hour – Coffee hour is a big way in which you can participate in the life of the parish and serve your parish community. 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.” *Of the 46 possible slots, 40 are still available!!!*

Help is also needed for Wednesday night meal pick up.

Sacristan Garden - Our Sacristan Garden is getting rave reviews from our parishioners and neighbors!! It started as an idea offered by Sarah Ortwein to create a space for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd children as they learn about the Kingdom of God and its gifts. Lynda Spinolo assisted with the design and Judy Terry provided the lovely signs labeling each plant and even presented a lesson to the Level 2 children on the meaning of the Iris to the Orthodox. Be sure to ask them about it!

The children, their parents, and supporters have worked hard the past few weeks to get it started with three initial plants. Curious about which flowers you'll see popping up next? Take a look at the Garden Plan in St. John Library on the wall next to the door into the hallway. More news about the Garden will be forthcoming!!!!

VECA Art Walk – The annual VECA Art Walk will take place Saturday, April 28, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. St. John will be open for tours of the nave as well as having an information table out front. While specifics are still being sorted out, we do know that we will need volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the office.

Sons of Thunder Men’s Book Club will be meeting 6pm April 29th at Mark Ortwein's home. They will be discussing Time and Despondency by Dr. Nicole Roccas and The Willpower Instinct by Dr. Kelly McGonigal. All men are welcome.

Parish Council Update

The parish council’s next meeting will be Tuesday, April 17. Lord willing, we will be discussing the design for our acoustic treatment. In addition, new tenants moved into our property this week. We currently have 3 of 4 spaces rented.



Yearbook Pictures

If you have pictures from Holy Week or Pascha (or any other time), please text or email them to Buddy Bowick.

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 ‘nonnes,’ 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 p.m.

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!



Women of St. John Calendar

May 3 Women’s Teaching - 10:00 a.m., Sarah Hodges’ porch
May 7 AWSJ Book Club – *Catherine of Sienna* by Sigrid Undset



Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 4/15: Tekla Haymanot, Chelsea Yadron
Tuesday, 4/17 Raluca Craciun
Wednesday, 4/18: Sue Brownlow
Friday, 4/19: Andrew Yadron
Saturday, 4/20: Heather Hetrick

Library Lines

Today we honor St. Thomas who is remembered by the world as a doubter. Sometimes we forget that after Jesus was threatened in Judea and he asked his disciples to accompany Him to raise Lazarus, St. Thomas said, “Then let us also go that we may die with Him.” The Church praises Thomas for his honest doubt after the Resurrection because it led to a life driven by belief. St. John Chrysostom, in comparing him to the other apostles, says he “toiled through the grace of God more...zealously than them all as he ended up preaching in most of the known earth.” He was martyred in India, and his feast day is October 6. You and your children can read more about him in *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR).

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.

This week we commemorate several women saints. Sts. Anastasia and Basilissa of Rome (4/15) were brought to Christ by St. Peter and Paul. They had buried the bodies of Christians martyred by the emperor Nero and were in turn killed by his order. Sts. Galina and Irene (4/16) were martyred in 258. They did not drown after their torturers threw them into the ocean, so they had stones tied around their necks to kill them. St. Matrona of Moscow (4/19) was born blind in Russia. She was a pious child, and St. John of Kronstadt prophesied her greatness. Struck by paralysis at seventeen years old, she was granted insight by God and comforted many people in the horrific events following the Revolution. She healed many and told them to obey the Church’s laws, regularly offer Confession, receive the Eucharist, and marry in the Church. According to the OCS website, before her death, she said, “Come close, all of you, and tell me of your troubles as though I were alive! I’ll see you, I’ll hear you, and I’ll come to your aid.”

Martyr Gabriel of Bialystok (4/20) was killed in Poland at the age of six. He was lured away from his parents’ house, and his incorrupt body was found thirty years later. Read more about him in *Let the Little Children Come to Me* (HAG - - - SAI).

Friday, we commemorate one who helped us begin our Lenten journey, St. Zacchaeus (4/20). He is an icon to us of putting his repentance into action by climbing a tree to see Christ and giving three-fold restitution to those he had cheated. Tradition tells us that St. Peter ordained him as a bishop and that he died a peaceful death.