

**From the Fathers (and others):**

"Strive to be always prepared for death, for death is near to both the elderly and the young - to monks and laymen equally; and often it comes suddenly and unexpectedly. Let everyone consider what will happen with his soul." -

St. Barsanuphius of Optina

An old man came to Abba John's cell and found him asleep with an angel standing above him, fanning him. Seeing this, he withdrew. When Abba John got up, he said to his disciple, 'Did anyone come in while I was asleep?' The disciple said, 'Yes, an old man.' Then Abba John knew that this old man was his equal, and that he had seen the angel.

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Go and have pity on all, for through pity, one finds freedom of speech before God.

Abba Pambo

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Imitate the Publican and you will not be condemned with the Pharisee. Choose the meekness of Moses and you will find your heart which is a rock changed into a spring of water.

Amma Syncletica

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

"Blessed is Christ Who promised life and resurrection to Adam's children in the day of His coming. We too shall arise and exalt Him along with the saints who have been pleasing to Him."

St. Ephraim the Syrian

One must strive to have a good opinion of everyone. Only God is the knower of hearts. We cannot infallibly judge people.

St Hilarion of Optina

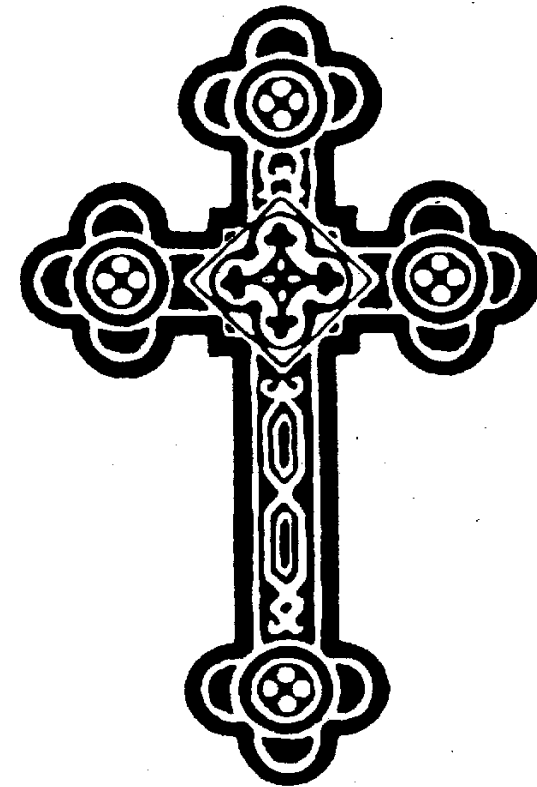
A decisive remedy against judging others consist in this: To consider yourself condemned. He who feels himself condemned will have no time to judge others. His only words will be, 'Lord have mercy! Lord, forgive my transgressions.'

Theophan the Recluse

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## St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ April 16, 2017 ~*

***GREAT & HOLY PASCHA***

**ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TN 38107  
(901) 274-4119

[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

[www.orthodoxtupelo.com](http://www.orthodoxtupelo.com)

**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*

## **April 16, 2017**

# **GREAT & HOLY PASCHA**

**Epistle: Acts 1:1-8**

**Gospel: John 1:1-17**

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**

**BRIGHT WEEK**

**April 16 - 23 (NO fasting)**

- Sunday** -No Morning Services  
-Agape Vespers, 3:30 p.m.  
-Agape Picnic & Egg Hunt following Vespers
- Monday** **-NO FIRST HOUR**  
**-OFFICE CLOSED**
- Tuesday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.  
-NO Catechumen/Inquirers class, we resume 4/25
- Wednesday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.  
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.  
-NO meal or teaching, we will resume 4/26
- Thursday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.  
**-Divine Liturgy for Life Giving Font, 6:00 p.m.**  
-Pizza Party following liturgy
- Friday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.  
-Paschal Office, 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.**

**DIVINE LITURGY – Life Giving Font**

**Thursday, April 20, 10:00 a.m.**

**PRIEST:** Fr. Philip

**HOMILY:** Fr. Philip

**READER:**

**HOLY BREAD:** Kh. Pamela

**PIZZA PARTY CLEAN UP:** Whoever can stay to help

**DIVINE LITURGY – Thomas Sunday**

**Sunday, April 23, 10:00 a.m.**

**PRIEST:** Fr. Alex

**HOMILY:** Fr. Alex

**READER:** Jack Turner

**HOLY BREAD:** Harvey family

**USHER:** Bill Harter

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Zach, Eli, Thomas, Paul, James

**COFFEE HOUR:** Stephanie Harants, HELP NEEDED

## COMMEMORATIONS

**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 Januarius, 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.

**April 23:** Great-martyr George the Trophy-bearer; Martyr Alexandra the Empress; Martyr Glykerios of Nicomedia; New-martyrs George of Ptolemais and Lazarus of Bulgaria.

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| <b>DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS</b> |      |                | <b>April 16-23</b> |          |
|---------------------------------|------|----------------|--------------------|----------|
| Sunday                          | Acts | 1:1-8          | John               | 1:1-17   |
| Monday                          | Acts | 1:12-17, 21-26 | John               | 1:18-28  |
| Tuesday                         | Acts | 2:14-21        | Luke               | 24:12-35 |
| Wednesday                       | Acts | 22:22-38       | John               | 1:35-51  |
| Thursday                        | Acts | 2:38-43        | John               | 3:1-15   |
| Friday                          | Acts | 3:1-8          | John               | 2:12-22  |
| Saturday                        | Acts | 3:11-16        | John               | 3:22-33  |
| Sunday                          | Acts | 12:1-11        | John               | 20:19-31 |

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**Pray for our catechumens: Memphis** –Justin Bowles, 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), Caitlin Romero (pregnant), Caitlyn Maas (pregnant), Lawrence Elliott (pregnant), Beth Autry (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), Maria Bellaflores, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Coffee Hour** – Remember, in many ways coffee hour being a ministry. 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.” There are *numerous* slots still available for Coffee Hour hosts.

**Catechumen/Inquirers Class** – There will be no class this Tuesday, April 18. We will resume classes on April 25.

**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).

**AWSJ Paint Party** – There are still openings for the paint party on Saturday, April 22 following vespers. Be sure to sign up by Wednesday.

**VECA Art Walk** – The annual VECA Art Walk will take place next Saturday, April 22, 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.

### **Master Plan Updates**

**Progress on building** – Everyday something new is added to the building! This week, the framing was completed and they put in some of the windows. We are in the process of picking out the final brick colors as well as the roof and beginning to make choices for colors inside. It won’t be long! If you would like to walk into the building during the Agape picnic, you are welcome to do so. Please, be mindful of the equipment and be sure you accompany your children.

**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**

<b>Monday, 4/17:</b>	Christina Moore
<b>Tuesday, 4/18:</b>	Sue Brownlow
<b>Friday, 4/21:</b>	Don Calcote

## AGAPE VESPERS PICNIC

Join us for Corky's BBQ, an Egg Hunt, and Fellowship!

### **Bring:**

Lawnchairs, beverages of your choice for your family, dessert to share, and instruments if you play them.

\$10 per person donation suggested to help offset the cost of food

### Egg Hunt

Melissa White will lead the children in an egg hunt immediately following vespers. Each child should bring 12 filled plastic eggs to be hidden (boiled eggs will not be hidden) and their basket.

## BRIGHT WEEK PIZZA PARTY

Thursday evening following Divine Liturgy

For the Life Giving Font at 6:00 p.m.

## TEEN GROUP

### **Today:**

Agape Vespers and Picnic

### **Next Week:**

April 23 – Young Adults and Teens, Golf and Games

## Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

- April 22**     **Painting Party** – 7:00 p.m., Register online by April 19, <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0944aca62bab9-bright>
- 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 *Ascent to the Summit...the Life and Martyric Death of Igor Rozin*
- May 4**        **Women's Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela's home

### Library Lines

Every Sunday between Pascha and Pentecost is a special commemoration. Surprisingly not every one is related to a person specifically mentioned in the account of the Passion of the Lord. Read about them all in Alexander Schmemmann's *Celebration of Faith* series, *The Church Year*. It's on the display cart along with *The Resurrection and the Icon* by Michel Quenot.

Thursday 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.

Friday we will commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of the Life Giving Font. Emperor Leo the Great built a church dedicated to her because of an event in his life before his ascending the throne. While walking, he met a blind man who asked him for water. After searching and not finding any, he heard a voice address him as emperor. It told him where to find a spring and to give its water to the man to drink. He was instructed to put clay from it on the eyes of the man. Then he would know who had spoken to him. He obeyed. The man was healed, and Leo knew the Theotokos had spoken to him. He later became emperor and built a church over the site. The waters of the spring healed many over the centuries.

