

### From the Fathers (and others):

A brother came to Abba Theodore and began to converse with him about things which he had never yet put into practice. So the old man said to him, 'You have not yet found a ship nor put your cargo aboard it and before you have sailed, you have already arrived at the city. Do the work first; then you will have the speed you are making now.'

Abba Theodore- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

There was in the Cells an old man called Apollo. If someone came to find him about doing a piece of work, he would set out joyfully, saying, 'I am going to work with Christ today, for the salvation of my soul, for that is the reward he gives.'

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

The perfect man will certainly become the equal of the angels, as the Lord affirms; but he will do so in the resurrection of the dead, and not in this present world. Even then the perfect will not be angels, but 'equal to the angels' (Lk. 20:36). This means that men cannot forsake their own nature, though like angels they can become changeless through grace and released from all necessity, free in everything they do, possessing ceaseless joy, love of God, and all that 'the eye has not seen, and the ear has not heard' (I Cor. 2:9).

St. Peter of Damaskos

O man, do you believe that Christ is God? If you believe, fear, and keep His commandments, there is no other God but He (cf. Dt. 4:35). To Him no one is equal, nor can become equal (cf. Is. 40:18). He is Ruler of all things, the Judge of all, the King of all, the Maker of light and the Lord of life. He is the Light that is ineffable, inaccessible (cf. I Tim. 6:16), and He is the Only One. By His appearing He causes all His enemies to vanish before His face (cf. Ps. 68:2 f.), as well as those who do not perform His commandments, just as the sun when it rises drives away the darkness of night.

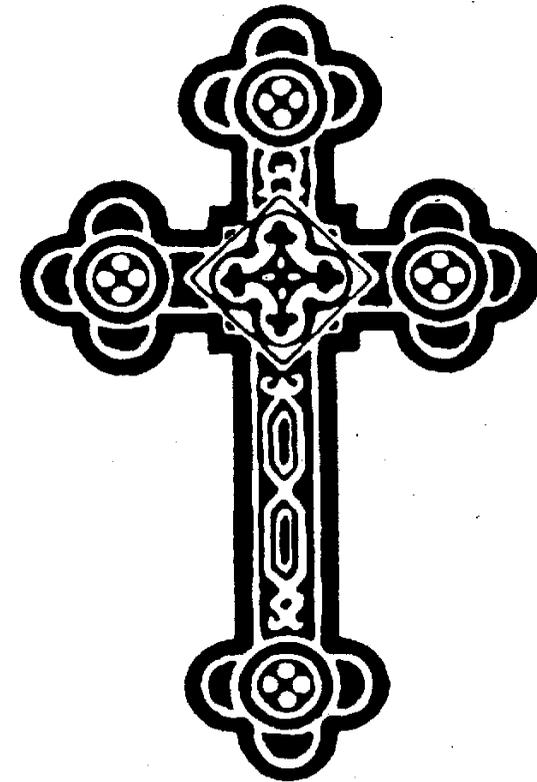
St. Symeon the New Theologian

When hungry, do not throw yourself upon food - else you will overload your heart and body. Eat slowly, without avidity, with reflection to the glory of God, remembering the God Who feeds us, and above all His incorruptible food, His Body and Blood, that out of love He has given Himself to us in food and drink, remembering also the holy word of the Gospel.

St. John of Kronstadt

## St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ April 23, 2017 ~  
Thomas Sunday*

**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 23, 2017**

### **Thomas Sunday**

**Epistle: Acts 12:1-11**

**Gospel: John 20:19-31**

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by the **Harvey family**.

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 23 – 30 (\*Wed. & Fri. fast)**

- Sunday** -Teen Group, 5:00 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Catchumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m., "Who is Jesus Christ"
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., meal following  
-Wednesday Teaching, 7:00 p.m., Revelations 15 - 18
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-AWSJ Evening discussion group, 7:00 p.m., Lynda Spinolo's home
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Paraklesis, 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 – Myrrh-bearing Women**

**Sunday, April 30, 10:00 a.m.**

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	David Twombly		
HOLY BREAD:	Judy Terry	USHER:	Matt Spinolo
ALTAR SERVERS:	Pavel, Trent Nicholas, Max, Alex		
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 23:** Great-martyr George the Trophy-bearer; Martyr Alexandra the Empress; Martyr Glykerios of Nicomedia; New-martyrs George of Ptolemais and Lazarus of Bulgaria.

**April 24:** Venerable Elizabeth the wonder-worker of Constantinople; Martyr Sabbas the General ('Stratelates') of Rome; Hieromartyrs Phylikos, Fourtunatos and Achilleos; New-martyrs Luke, Akylina, Nicholas and George; Iorest and Sabbas Brancovici, metropolitans of Ardeal and confessors in Romania; Martyr Alexander of Lyons.

**April 25:** Apostle and Evangelist Mark; Martyr Niki; Macedonios, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr George.

**April 26:** Hieromartyr Basil, bishop of Amasea; Venerable Glaphyra and George; Stephen, bishop of Perm; Ioanikios of Devitch.

**April 27:** Hieromartyr Simeon, the kinsman of the Lord; Venerable George, John and Eulogios the hospitable; Stephen, bishop of Vladimir; incineration of the relics of Sabbas, first archbishop of Serbia, by Sinan Pasha (1595).

**April 28:** The Nine Martyrs of Kyzikos; Venerable Memnon the wonderworker.

**April 29:** Apostles Jason and Sosipater of the Seventy; the martyrs of Kerkyra; John, metropolitan of Thebes; New-martyr John; Basil of Ostrog.

**April 30:** Apostle James, brother of John the Theologian; Donatos, bishop in Epiros; New-martyr Argyris; Bishop Ignatios Brianchaninov.



**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**April 23 - 30**

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



**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), 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), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

**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** – Remember, in many ways coffee hour is 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, including all slots for the next 3 Sundays.

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** – Our last day for both Levels 1 & 2 of the atrium will be Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Our start date for the Fall has not yet been determined and will depend of construction/renovation issues. Contact Claire van Drimmelen with any questions.

**Upcoming Level 1 Atrium (ages 3 ½ through Kindergarten):** We will begin children in Level 1 when they are 3 ½ years old (by Sept. 1). If your child was **3 years old by March 1, 2017**, then they will be joining us in the atrium!

**St. Brigid Food Pantry** – Karen Wells is looking for volunteers to fill and hand out food bags for the food pantry on Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Please contact her if you would like to serve our community in this way.

**Catechumen/Inquirers Class** –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).

**Master Plan Updates**

**Progress on building** – Though it might not look as apparent, work continues to happen everyday!! The windows are beginning to be put in and the plumbing and electrical work has begun as well. It is amazing to see how much work goes into each layer of our project. Please, keep the work crews in your prayers as they work to provide a great building 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!

## Upcoming Special Services

- May 7 Great Vespers for St. John the Theologian, 5:00 p.m.  
*For those who would like to join us, we will be going to Central BBQ together following Vespers. (Dutch treat)*
- May 8 Divine Liturgy for St. John, 9:00 a.m.

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 4/25:** *St. George the Great Martyr: Dashiell Ortwein, Peyton Sanderlin, Dennis Daley*
- Monday, 4/24:** Frank Larker
- Tuesday, 4/25:** Joseph Fahhoum, Matthew Yadron
- Wednesday, 4/26:** Michael Grossman
- Friday, 4/28:** Anniversary: Rick & Christi Yadron
- Saturday, 4/29:** Ellie Lyons

## TEEN GROUP

### Today:

April 23 – Young Adults and Teens, Golf and Games

### Next Week:

April 30 – Cookout and Campfire @ Fr. Alex & Kh. Amanda's home

## Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

- 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

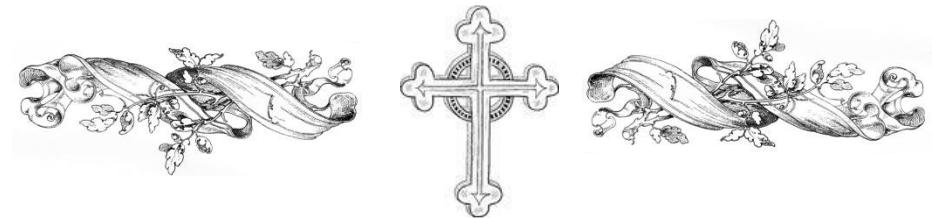
## Library Lines

Every Sunday between Pascha and Pentecost is a special commemoration. Surprisingly not everyone 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.

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. Children can read more about him in *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR).

This week we honor two women from very different backgrounds. St. Alexandra (4/23) was married to the emperor Diocletian. She raised their daughter, St. Valeria, in the Faith. They were both banished after Valeria refused to marry the succeeding emperor, Maximus. After his death, they returned to Rome, trusting the next emperor, Licinius, for their safety. He, along with St. Constantine, had extended religious freedom to Christians. However, he betrayed his promise and had them beheaded.

St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker (4/24) spent her life from childhood in a monastery. Her mother had been given a revelation that her daughter was chosen by God for special blessings. She was a strict ascetic and was given the gift of healing. She wore a hair shirt and kept a strict fast. Tradition says that she lived and died in the sixth century. Read more about her in *Holy Women of Byzantium* (HAG - - - - TAL).



**LOST — FOUND — LEFT**  
**PLEASE CHECK DOWNSTAIRS IN THE PARISH HALL & HALLWAY COAT HOOKS FOR DISHES AND OTHER ITEMS WHICH MAY BELONG TO YOU.**