

From the Fathers (and others):

Blessed, plainly, is that life which is not valued at the estimation of outsiders, but is known, as judge of itself, by its own inner feelings. It needs no popular opinions as its reward in any way; nor has it any fear of punishments. Thus the less it strives for glory, the more it rises above it. For to those who seek for glory, that reward in the shape of present things is but a shadow of future ones, and is a hindrance to eternal life, as it is written in the Scriptures: 'Truly I say to you, they have received their reward.'

St. Ambrose

"Is the soul by itself a man? No, it is but the soul of a man. Can the body be called a man? No, it can but be called the body of a man. If, then neither of these is by itself a man, but that which is composed of the two together is called man, and God has called man to life and resurrection, He has called not a part, but the whole, which is the soul and the body... The resurrection is of the flesh which died; for the spirit does not die."

St. Justin Martyr

When you pray to God in time of temptation do not say, 'Take this or that away from me', but pray like this: 'O Jesus Christ, sovereign Master, help me and do not let me sin against Thee...'

Abba Isaiah- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

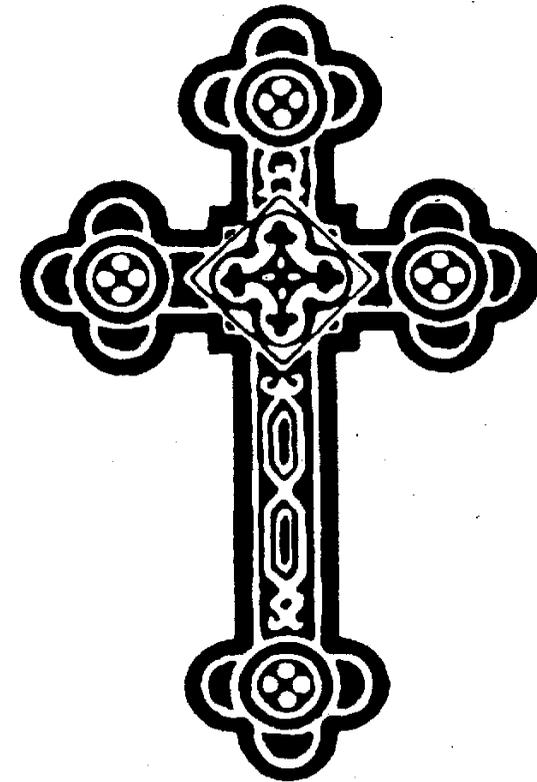
I met a few years ago in Russia an elderly priest who had spent 36 years in prisons and concentration camps. He sat opposite me with eyes shining with joy and gratitude and he said, "Do you realize, can you imagine, how infinitely good God had been to me? The Soviet authorities did not allow a priest either into prisons or into camps; and He chooses me, a young, inexperienced priest and sends me first to prison and then to camp to look after His lost sheep." There was nothing in him but gratitude and joy. And that joy, that kind of gratitude against the history of his life was truly an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

The healing that comes through suffering is brought about by the grace-filled power of the Holy and Life-giving Spirit.

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ April 30, 2017 ~
Sunday of the
Myrrh-bearing Women*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
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www.stjohnmemphis.org

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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 30, 2017

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Judy Terry**.

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 30 - May 7 (*Wed. & Fri. fast)

- Sunday** -Teen Group, 5:00 p.m.
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., meal following
-Wednesday Teaching, 7:00 p.m., Revelations 19-20
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela'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.**
-Great Vespers for St. John, 5:00 p.m.

DIVINE LITURGY – Paralytic

Sunday, May 7, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. John	HOMILY:	Fr. John
READER:	Rod Ratliff	USHER:	Thomas Yadron
HOLY BREAD:	Ben Arthur		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Eli, Thomas, Paul, James		
COFFEE HOUR:	HELP NEEDED		



LOST — FOUND — LEFT

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

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

May 1: Prophet Jeremiah; Venerable-martyrs Euthymios, Ignatios and Akakios of Prodromou skete on Athos; Venerable Nikephoros of Chios and Panaretos of Cyprus; Venerable Paphnoutios of Borovsk.

May 2: Athanasios the Great, patriarch of Alexandria; Martyrs Hesperos, Zoe and their sons Kyriakos and Theodoulos in Attalia; translation of the relics of the holy Passion-bearers Boris and Gleb.

May 3: Martyrs Timothy the Reader and his wife Maura of Egypt; Peter, archbishop of Argolis; Ekumenios, bishop of Trikala; Venerable Luke of Mt. Stirion; repose of Venerable Theodosios of the Kiev Caves, founder of Russian Monasticism.

May 4: Venerable-martyr Palagia of Tarsus; Athanasios, bishop of Corinth; Venerable Nikephoros the Solitary of Athos.

May 5: Great-martyr Irene of Thessalonika; Venerable Euthymios, bishop of Maditos in Thrace.

May 6: Righteous Job the long-suffering; Venerable Seraphim of Mount Domvu; translation of the relics of Sabbas, first archbishop of Serbia.

May 7: The commemoration of the apparition of the sign of the Cross over Jerusalem (351 AD); Martyr Akakios the centurion at Byzantium; Venerable Kodratos; Venerable Neilos the myrrh-streaming of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable Neilos of Sora; Venerable-martyr Pachomios of Athos; repose of Venerable John of Beverly; Priest Alexis, confessor and defender of Orthodoxy in America.



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 – 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.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Our last day for both Levels 1 & 2 of the atrium will be **Sunday, May 21st**. 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.

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 – New things keep happening! Most of the doors and windows have been added to the building exterior. Inside the building, piping and electrical wiring have been added in the kitchen and throughout the building. You will notice that the east door of the current building is boarded up. They are working on preparing that wall to be altered and fit a new double door leading to the elevator and the parish hall. Please, keep the workers in your prayers!

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			April 30 – May 7	
Sunday	Acts	6:1-7	Mark	15:43-16:8
Monday	1 Thessalonians	2:14-20	Luke	4:22-30
Tuesday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Matt.	5:14-29
Wednesday	Acts	8:18-25	John	6:35-39
Thursday	Acts	8:26-39	John	6:40-44
Friday	Acts	8:40-9:19	John	6:48-54
Saturday	Acts	12:1-11	John	15:17-27, 16:1-2
Sunday	Acts	9:32-42	John	5:1-15

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.

Upcoming Special Services

- Churchings:** Today, Gabriel and Diane Flexsenhar
May 7, Anna and Sarah Finley
- Memorial:** May 14 Elfrieda Drobashevsky, 40 days
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.
May 24 Divine Liturgy for Ascension, 6:00 p.m.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 4/30:** *Myrrh-bearing Women: Sue Brownlow, Violet Hight, Fiona Harvey, Bethany White, Kh. Martha, Margaret McKelroy, Cindy Karnaghon, Marjo Labonte*
- Monday, 5/1:** Melanie Stanek
Prophet Jeremiah: Charlie Harvey, Clark McGee
- Tuesday, 5/2 :** Caitlin Romero
Anniversary: Brandon & Caitlyn Maas
- Wednesday, 5/3:** Carla Fahhoum, Wendy Weatherall
- Friday, 5/5:** *Great Martyr Irene: Irene Hodges, Irena Douglas*
- Saturday, 5/6:** Terry Harter

TEEN GROUP

Today:

April 30 – Young Adults and Teens, Golf and Games

Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

- 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
- May** **Women's Discussion Group**, 6:30 p.m., Lynda Spinolo's home. Please bring appetizer, dessert or beverages to share!

Library Lines

Can you name all of the Myrrhbearers? Do you know that Sts. Joseph of Arimathea (7/31) and Nicodemus (8/2) are also numbered with the holy women? Do you know each of their connections to Christ? Read their stories in *The Life of the Virgin Mary: The Theotokos and Married Saints of the Church*. Also, look for Alexander Schmemmann's chapter on the Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women in his *Celebration of Faith* series, *The Church Year*.

St. James (4/30) was the brother of our own St. John. They were in the inner circle of Christ's disciples, and He called them "the sons of thunder." James preached the Gospel in Spain after Pentecost and returned to Jerusalem. The Jews sent men to discredit his message and spread lies about him. History records the names of three of them, and tradition tells us they were later converted. St. James, the first martyred of the Apostles, was beheaded in 44 A. D. Read more about him in *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR).

It is not by chance that we honor the Prophet Jeremiah (5/1) soon after Pascha. God called him at age 15 but he refused Him because of his youth and inability to speak well. God touched his mouth and gave him words. He spent the next 23 years warning the Jews about their impending captivity because they had forsaken God and worshipped idols. He was mocked, imprisoned and eventually killed by them.

St. Athanasius (5/2) is linked in our minds with the First Ecumenical Council. There he refuted the heresy of Arius. The Council supported his arguments but the Arians persecuted him throughout his life. At one time, his was deposed as a bishop and lived under death threats. He wrote letters in defense of Orthodoxy and commentaries on the Scriptures. St. John Library owns *Athanasius...The Life of Anthony and the Letter to Marcellinus* (HAG ANT ATH), *Christ Is Our Holiness: Be Strong in the Faith* (PAT ATH), *On the Incarnation* (PAT ATH), and *The Road to Pascha* (PAT ATH).

Pelagia of Tarsus (5/4) was the daughter of well-known pagans. Nevertheless, she learned of Christ and vowed to remain faithful to him and preserve her virginity. The heir of Diocletian desired to marry her but she rebuffed his advances. She made a secret journey to Bishop Linus to receive baptism by dressing in fine apparel then changing into simple garb and distributing her jewels on the way home to the poor. She told her servants about her new Lord and upon hearing of this, her suitor realized she was lost to him and took his own life in despair. When she told her mother about her baptism, she tied her up, delivered her to the emperor, and denounced her as a Christian to escape his wrath. Diocletian had her burned in a fiery-hot bull. Her bones were taken outside the city by the pagan. Lions guarded them until Bishop Linus could gather them and give them Christian burial.

This week we remember an Old Testament figure who joined us during Holy Week. Job (5/6), as we learned on Holy Saturday, was a fifth-generation descendant of Abraham. He is an icon to us of faith and patience in the face of grief, poverty, rejection and bodily suffering. The Book of Job is considered a masterpiece of world literature, and we rejoice in his story because he is a picture of Christ. He is remembered at Pascha because the later verses of the Book record that he will "rise again with those whom the Lord resurrects." Learn more about him in *The Trial of Job* (SCR COM REA) by Fr. Patrick Reardon and in *Lessons of Joy from the Book of Job* (SCR COM BET) set of CDs by Fr. John Bethancourt.