

From the Fathers (and others):

Return my soul to the sweet garden of paradise, and may it abide in light that, surrounded by the delights of paradise, I too may say with all the saints: Glory to the Immortal Father; honor to Him Who presents heavenly gifts to this worthless one, that he may bring a tithe of glory to the King of all!"

St Ephraim the Syrian

Accept the troubles that come to you as good, knowing that nothing happens without God.
The Didache (Teachings of the twelve apostles)

Do not ever succumb to the insane thought that God has abandoned you. God knows exactly how much one can endure and, according to that, measures the sufferings and pains of everyone.

St. Nikolaj Velimirovic

So in every test, let us say, "Thank you, my God, because this was needed for my salvation".

St. Paisios

Meekness consists in praying calmly and sincerely for a neighbor, when it is that neighbor who causes us much turmoil.

St. John Climacus

There is one antidote for evil passions: the purification of our souls which takes place through the mystery of godliness. The chief act of faith in this mystery is to look to Him who suffered the passion for us. The cross is the passion, so that whoever looks to it, is not harmed by the poison of desire. To look to the cross means to render one's whole life dead and crucified to the world.

St. Gregory of Nyssa

Sorrow sometimes staggers us. There is a mystery about it which we cannot solve. No one can answer this question definitely, to say just why this good man suffers so sorely, yet we know that blessings and good will surely come out of the experience. Possibly he is suffering that his own life may be made more pure, more radiant. Possibly he is permitted to suffer as a witness for Christ, his patience, trust, and joy being the fruit of the Spirit in him. In some way at least we know that pain is meant to yield blessing - to him who endures it, or to those who look on and note the courage and victoriousness with which it is borne.

Royal Martyr Tsaritsa Alexandra

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ April 8, 2018 ~
GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

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

www.stjohnmemphis.org

www.orthodoxtupelo.com

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. Basil Cushman
Associate Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus

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

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **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 8 - 15 (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.
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., Holy Trinity

Wednesday

-Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.
-NO EVENING ACTIVITIES, we will resume 4/18

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.

UPCOMING MEMORIAL

Leonid Harbert, April 15

DIVINE LITURGY – Life Giving Font

Thursday, April 12, 6:00 p.m.

PRIEST:

Fr. Philip

READER:

HOLY BREAD:

Sarah Hodges

PIZZA PARTY CLEAN UP: Whoever can stay to help

DIVINE LITURGY – Thomas Sunday

Sunday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:

Fr. Alex

READER:

David Twombly

HOLY BREAD:

Lavinia Dumitrache

USHER:

Jack Turner

ALTAR SERVERS:

Pavel, Max, Brody, Paul, Volunteer

COFFEE HOUR:

Anna Pashchinskaya, Lavinia Dumitrache, Carolina Harbert

COMMEMORATIONS

April 8: Apostles Agabos, Rufos, Phlegon, Asynkritos, Herodion and Hermas of the Seventy; Celestine, bishop of Rome.

April 9: Martyr Eupsychois of Cappadocia; Venerable-martyrs Vadim, Raphael, Nicholas and Irene; Venerable Simeon.

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

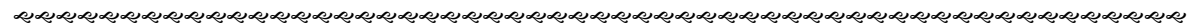
April 11: Hieromartyr Antypas, bishop of Pergamum; Venerable Tryphainis; Kallinikos of Cernica, bishop of Rimnicului in Romania.

April 12: Basil the Confessor, bishop of Parium; Venerable Anthusa of Constantinople; Venerable Akakios the Younger, founder of Kafsoakalyvia 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.

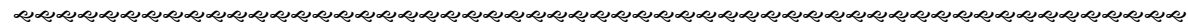
April 15: Martyr Crescens of Myra in Lycia; Hieromartyr Leonidas, bishop of Athens.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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|-----------|------|----------------|------|----------|
| 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 | 5:12-20 | John | 20:19-31 |

April 8-15



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



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.

VECA Art Walk – The annual VECA Art Walk will take place next 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.

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 ‘nonés,’ 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 pm.

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

- April 12** **Women’s Teaching** - 10:00 a.m., Sarah Hodges’ home
- May 7** **AWSJ Book Club** – *Catherine of Sienna* by Sigrid Undset

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday, 4/8: | Clark McGee |
| Monday, 4/9: | Marie Heisig |
| Tuesday, 4/10: | Sarah Hodges |
| Wednesday, 4/11: | Joyce Bittle, Luigi Icanaru |
| Friday, 4/13: | Gabby Sneed |
| Saturday, 4/14: | Soren Ortwein, Dennis Daley, Bill Harter |

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.

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 display along with *The Resurrection and the Icon* by Michel Quenot. We celebrate the feast of the Life-Giving Font of the Mother of God during the week after Pascha. This story has its beginnings in the 5th century in Constantinople. Before becoming emperor, Leo met a blind man seeking water. While searching for the water, a Voice told him where to find it, to make clay with it and to put it on the blind man's eyes. The man was healed and Leo built a church over the slight of the miracle-giving spring. Throughout history the church was destroyed and rebuilt; the last time in 1955. The spring continues to work miracles.

Today, we commemorate a family member and a friend of the Apostles. St. Herodion (4/8) of the Seventy was related to St. Paul. He traveled with him on his missionary journeys and St. Paul ordained him as the first bishop of Patara in the Balkans. He was martyred around 67 AD. Hieromartyr Antipas (4/11) was a disciple of our St. John the Evangelist. He converted many in Pergamum from idol worship to the True God. The pagan priests burned him in a hot furnace where sacrifices were made to idols. The Faithful removed his unharmed body from the furnace and buried him. We ask his intercessions for diseases of the teeth.

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 refused 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.

Friday, 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.