

From the Fathers (and others):

“If, when it is time for us to pray, we don't want to, if we are worn down and tired, know that this too comes from the demons.”

Elder Sergei of Vanves

“To those who are distrustful, who doubt and dispute and use only the faculty of reason and are not open to God, God does not show himself. God does not enter locked souls; He does not force an entrance.”

Elder Porphyrious

“Treat every man not with flattery, but simply, just as you do yourself. As you appear to him outwardly, be so inwardly as well . . .”

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

“Remember always: if your way of life is hard and sorrowful, it is correct; but if you live in comfort, wealth and honor, and still more, in carnal pleasures, you are on the road to perdition. It is quite impossible to attain serenity of mind without enduring many sorrows and depression and for many years.”

Fr. Confessor Ilian of Mount Athos

“We grow cold within when our heart is distracted, when it cleaves to something other than God, worrying about different things, getting angry and blaming someone, –when we are discontented and pander to the flesh, wallowing in luxury and wandering thoughts. Guard against these things, and the coldness will diminish.”

St. Theophan the Recluse

“Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance. Prayer suppresses anger. Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Ghost, and raises man to Heaven.”

St. Ephraim the Syrian

“In Job there was no trace of avarice; therefore, when he lost everything, he remained undisturbed.”

St. John Climacus

St. John Orthodox Church



~ May 1, 2016 ~

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

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

www.stjohnmemphis.org

www.orthodoxtupelo.com

V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.
Pastor
Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers
Assistant Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman
Associate Pastor
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

May 1, 2016 GREAT AND 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

May 1 - 8

(NO FASTING)

- Sunday** -No Morning Services
-Agape Vespers, 3:30 p.m.
-Agape Picnic & Egg Hunt following Vespers
- Monday** -**NO FIRST HOUR**
-Men of St. John – Nave work for those able to assist, 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m. (parish hall)
- Wednesday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m. (parish hall)
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m. (*tentative*)
- Thursday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m. (parish hall)
-**Divine Liturgy for Life Giving Font, 6:00 p.m.** (*tentative*)
-Pizza Party following liturgy
- Friday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m. (parish hall)
-Paschal Office, 12:00 p.m. (parish hall)
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -**Orthros, 8:45 a.m.**
-**Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

DIVINE LITURGY – Thomas Sunday

Sunday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. John	HOMILY:	Fr. John
READER:	John Cameron	USHER:	Dan O'Brien
HOLY BREAD:	Lavinia Dumitrache		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Joe, Pavel, Trent, Max		
COFFEE HOUR:	Anna Pashchinskaya		

UPCOMING WEDDINGS

Jack Turner & Lavinia Dumitrach, May 22
Thomas Yadron & Chelsea Tabor, May 29

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

May 8: Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian; Venerable Arsenios the Great.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

May 1-8

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	22:22-36	John	1:35-51
Thursday	Acts	2:38-43	John	3:1-15
Friday	Philippians	2:5-11	Luke	10:38-42, 11:27-28
Saturday	Acts	3:11-16	John	3:22-33
Sunday	1 John	1:1-7	John	19:25-27, 21:24-25

Pray for our catechumens: **Memphis** - Ben Arthur, Joseph Gross, and Michael Hill.

Please remember in your prayers: Effie Johnson (Kh. Susan's mother), Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand's mother), Charles Ingram, Ted Greathouse (Shelley Snowden's father), Allen Sudduth (Paul's father), Janet Berry, Lydia Tampanaric (Tupelo), Nicholas Hill, Mary Sue Johnson (Jason Guntharpe's grandmother), Julie Hight (pregnant), Christina Moore (pregnant), Janna Knight (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill's mother), Brenda Thomas, Doris & Jim (Brenda Thomas' family), Kera White, Dot Lawson (Lawson Bowick's grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha's daughter), Glenda Brooks, Naomi Young (Chelsea Tabor's grandmother), Anna Grace (Joyce Grossman's granddaughter), those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



****Catechumen and Inquirers Class will resume Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m.****

Floor Work in the Church - We are redoing the floors in the nave beginning Tuesday, May 3. Consequently, we are unsure what the nave will look like for Vespers Wednesday, Saturday, and for the Sunday services. We will communicate to all by email and the website. PLEASE check both for service location updates.

For all our members – Remember, in many ways coffee hour being a ministry. We should all be greeters whether they're official or not! Take the opportunity to speak to at least one person you don't know or someone who you haven't talked with in a while during coffee hour.

Coffee Hour – There are numerous slots still available for Coffee Hour hosts. 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.”

Help Needed: Over the past 2-3 months, our church janitorial responsibilities have shifted several times. Cindy K arnaghon is again doing the lion's share of the work. However, we are now looking for someone who can vacuum and mop the church and the duplex weekly. If you, or a team of you are interested, contact me. We are happy to pay for the work to be done effectively.

Memphis Redbirds – Join us on Thursday evening, June 2 as we support our Memphis as they Redbirds play against the New Orleans Zephyrs. Tickets are \$16.50 each and include a hat and hot dog. There is a sign up list available downstairs as well as an online link on the website.

A Letter from a Soviet Concentration Camp

It is only by being a prisoner for religious convictions in a Soviet camp that one can really understand the mystery of the fall of the first man, the mystical meaning of the redemption of all creation, and the great victory of Christ over the forces of evil. It is only when we suffer for the ideals of the Holy Gospel that we can realize our sinful infirmity and our unworthiness in comparison with the great martyrs of the first Christian Church. Only then can we grasp the absolute necessity for profound meekness and humility, without which we cannot be saved; only then can we begin to discern the passing image of the seen, and the eternal life of the Unseen.

On Pascha all of us who were imprisoned for religious convictions were united in the one joy of Christ. We were all taken into one feeling, into one spiritual triumph, glorifying the one eternal God. There was no solemn Paschal service with the ringing of church bells, no possibility in our camp to gather for worship, to dress up for the festival, to prepare Pascha dishes. On the contrary, there was even more work and more interference than usual. All the prisoners here for religious convictions, whatever their denomination, were surrounded by more spying, by more threats from the secret police.

Yet Pascha was there; great, holy, spiritual, and unforgettable. It was blessed by the presence of our risen God among us – blessed by the silent Siberian stars and by our sorrows. How our hearts beat joyfully in communion with the great Resurrection! Death is conquered, fear no more, an eternal Pascha is given to us! Full of this marvelous Pascha, we send you from our prison camp the victorious and joyful tidings: Christ is Risen!

Master Plan notes and updates

Our pledges are coming in! Thank you all! Here are the stats through **noon of last**

Tuesday:

	Goal	Committed	%	Already Collected	% Collected
One time gifts	\$300,000	\$323,447	107.8%	\$78,512	24.3%
Monthly mortgage	\$4,611	\$3,956	85.8%	\$2,412	
Households committing			58.7%		
Households Pledging one time gifts					
Total			46		
Fully paid			19	41.3%	
Parially paid		7	15.2%		
Households Pledging monthly gifts (note some have pledged both)					
Total			46		
Number already contributing		16	34.8%		

If you have not made a pledge or contribution, now that the project is a reality, you may want to rethink and make a pledge. Remember - every level of commitment helps! No commitment is too small. \$5 a month is meaningful!! May God continue to bless and guide our efforts!

Fr John

Antiochian Women of St. John

AWSJ Calendar

- May 9** **Book Club**, 7:00 p.m. *Everyday Saints* by Arch. Tikhon Shevkunov
- May 12** **Women's Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., Priscilla Neale's home
- May 14** **Co-Ed Wedding Shower** for Thomas Yadron & Chelsea Tabor

The AWSJ invites the Parishioners of St. John to a
Wedding Shower

honoring

Thomas Yadron and Chelsea Tabor

Saturday, May 14th following Vespers

Thomas & Chelsea are registered at Target and
Bed, Bath, and Beyond

Kh. Pamela is coordinating the group gift.

Wedding Reception for Jack & Lavinia

The Women of St. John will be hosting a reception for Jack & Lavinia in the parish hall following their wedding in the afternoon of Sunday, May 22nd !

There are several ways you can assist, either with decorating or food or clean up. If you would like to participate in this gift from the St. John community, please sign up online. There is a link to the Sign Up Genius on the St. John website. (Parish – Online Sign Ups and Assignments)

Contact Lynda Spinolo or the specific coordinators listed below if you have questions.

LIBRARY LINES

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.”