

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

“The pure of heart will see God,’ according to the Lord's infallible word (Mt. 5:8), according to his capacity, receiving as much as his mind can sustain; yet the infinite and incomprehensible nature of the Godhead remains beyond all understanding.”

St. Gregory of Nyssa

“Prayer that rises up in someone's heart serves to open up for us the door of heaven: that person stands in converse with the Divinity and gives pleasure to the Son of God.”

St. Ephraim the Syrian

“He who sometimes mourns [for his sins] and sometimes indulges in luxury and laughter is like one who stones the dog of sensuality with bread. In appearance he is driving it away, but in reality he is encouraging it to be constantly with him.”

St. John Climacus

“Do not believe brother, that inner thoughts can be controlled without the control of the body. Fear bad habits more than devils.”

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

You do not understand how the saints in heaven can hear us when we pray to them? How do the rays of the sun descend from heaven to us, lighting the whole earth, and everything on it? The saints are in the spiritual world as the rays of the sun in the material world. God is the eternal life-giving sun, and the saints are the rays of the sun. As they eyes of the Lord are constantly looking upon earth, and those upon earth, so also the eyes of the saints cannot but follow the provident gaze of the Lord.

St. John of Kronstadt

What does the daily invocation of the saints signify – of different ones each day, during the whole year, and during our whole life? It signifies that God's saints, as our brethren – but perfect – live, and are near us ever ready to help us, by the grace of God. We live together with them in the house of our Heavenly Father, only in different parts of it. We live in the earthly, they in the heavenly half; but we can converse with them, and they with us.

St. John of Kronstadt

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## St. John Orthodox Church



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*~ May 15, 2016 ~*

*Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women*

**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. 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 15, 2016**

**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 **Margaret McKelroy**.

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**

**May 15-22 (\*Wed. & Fri. Fast)**

**Sunday** -Teen Group – Games, 5:00 p.m.  
**Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m., Parish Hall  
**Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall  
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Barksdale's  
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m., The Holy Spirit  
**Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall  
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., meal following  
-Wednesday Teaching, 7:00 p.m.  
**Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall  
**Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m., Parish Hall  
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall  
-Paraklesis, 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.  
-Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, Jack Turner & Lavinia Dumitrache,  
4:00 p.m., reception to follow in parish hall

**DIVINE LITURGY – Paralytic**

**Sunday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.**

<b>PRIEST:</b>	Fr. Basil	<b>HOMILY:</b>	Fr. Basil
<b>READER:</b>	Rod Ratliff	<b>USHER:</b>	Thomas Yadron
<b>HOLY BREAD:</b>	Trish Ratliff		
<b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b>	Alex M., Cade, Elijah		
<b>WELCOME TEAM:</b>	Gary Karnaghon		
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	<b><i>NO VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE HELP!</i></b>		

**\* 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

**May 15:** Achilles, bishop of Larisa; Venerable Pachomios the Great; Martyr Barbaros the myrrh-streaming of Corfu; Isaiah, bishop of Rostov; Andrew the hermit; Titos, bishop of Crete; Demetrios, prince of Moscow.

**May 16:** Venerable Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of Pachomios the Great; Alexander, archbishop of Jerusalem; New-martyr Nicholas of Metsov; Venerable Ephraim of Perekop, wonder-worker of Novogorod.

**May 17:** Apostle Andronikos and Junia of the Seventy; Anthanasios the New, bishop of Christianopolis; Venerable Nektarios and Theophanes.

**May 18:** Martyrs Peter, Dionysios, Andrew, Paul, Christina, Heraklios, Paulinos and Benedimos; Stephen the New, patriarch of Constantinople.

**May 19:** Hieromartyr Patrick, bishop of Prussa; Martyrs Menander and Philetairos; Venerable Cornelios of Komelsk; Grand Prince Dimitry of Donskoy of Moscow.

**May 20:** Martrys Thallelaios of Cilicia, Nikostratos and Antiochos; Venerable Nikitas, John and Joseph of Chios; Lydia of Philippisia; uncovering of the relics of Alexis the wonder-worker, metropolitan of Moscow; Venerable Stephen of Piper.

**May 21:** Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena; Prince Constantine and his children, Michael and Theodore, wonder-workers of Murom.

**May 22:** Martyr Basiliskos of Comana; John Vladimir, king of Serbia; New-hieromartyr Zachariah of Prussa; Venerable-martyr Paul of the Great Lavra and the Russian monastery on Athos; New-martyr Demetrios.

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### **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **May 15-22**

Sunday	Acts	6:1-7	Mark	15:43-16:8
Monday	Acts	6:8-7:5, 47-60	John	4:46-54
Tuesday	Acts	8:5-17	John	6:27-33
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	26:1-5, 12-20	John	10:1-9
Sunday	Acts	9:32-42	John	5:1-15

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

**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



**Contributions to Agape Picnic** – If you missed making your contribution to the picnic costs (suggested \$8 each), it is not too late. If you would like to make a special donation to offset the cost, it is not too late. Simply note it on your check or envelope.

**Floor Work in the Church** - I am very pleased with the new floors that are being installed in the nave and sanctuary. There are still a number of final touches that need to be done, and they may take another two weeks (or maybe even a bit longer). Please bear with us as this works goes on and draws to a conclusion. ~Fr John

**Free candles** – There are three boxes of slightly used paraffin candles in the parish hall free for anyone to take who would like to use on your home altars. They were used in the processions in Holy Week.

**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** – Another aspect of the ministry of coffee hour as noted above is that of service to your fellow parishioners. As we know, great blessings come by serving others. There are numerous slots still available for Coffee Hour hosts. If you are able to assist, even for just one Sunday, 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:** Our search continues for someone who can vacuum and mop the church. If you, or a team of you are interested, contact Fr. John or Fr. Philip. 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.

**Rhodes Pool Parties** – As we prepare for summer, we also prepare for the St. John Rhodes Pool Parties! The dates for this year are June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, and July 25<sup>th</sup>. More details to come!



### UPCOMING WEDDINGS

Jack Turner & Lavinia Dumitrache, May 22, 4:00 p.m.  
Thomas Yadron & Chelsea Tabor, May 29, 3:30 p.m.

## **Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays**

<b>Sunday, 5/15</b>	Oliver, Iconaru, Buddy Lyons, Katelyn Shlweet
<b>Monday, 5/16</b>	Anniversary: Jay & Janna Knight <b>St. Brendan: William Maas</b>
<b>Tuesday, 5/17</b>	Ellie Moore <b>St. Melangell: Sarah Ortwein</b>
<b>Wednesday, 5/18</b>	Buddy Bowick, Jeff Boone, Bilen Mulugeta
<b>Thursday, 5/19</b>	Ervin Romero
<b>Friday, 5/20</b>	Anniversaries: Dn. Sidney & Sh. Mary, Dn. Charles & Sh. Margaret, Trent & Judy Terry, Ervin & Caitlin Romero
<b>Saturday, 5/21</b>	Dorothy McWhorter, Mary Wren Williams <b>St. Elena/Helen: Ellie Moore, Pam Bowick</b>

## Master Plan notes and updates

Our pledges are coming in! Thank you all! Here are the stats **of last Wednesday:**

	Already Committed	Amount Collected	% Collected
One time gifts	\$328,447	\$121,262	37.0%

Parish households committing 58.7%

Households Pledging one time gifts

Total	46	
Fully paid	22	47.8%
Parially paid	7	15.2%

Households Pledging monthly gifts (note some have pledged both)

Total	46
Number already contributing	17 36.9%

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

## **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. Gregory the Dialogist tells us in his *Dialogues*, that St. Musa of Rome (5/16) was a pure-hearted child who lived in the fifth century. One night she dreamed that the Theotokos appeared to her surrounded by girls dressed in white and asked her if she wanted to live with them in Her court. When Mura said she would, the Theotokos admonished her to avoid silliness and joking and promised to come for her in thirty days. Mura told her parents about her dream and lived a strict life of prayer. In a couple of weeks she developed a fever. Five days later she saw the Mother of God coming for her with the girls clothed in white.

St. Euphrosyne (5/17) was the wife of the Great Prince of Moscow Demetrius. She built churches and founded a monastery in Moscow. Upon her advice, Russia was defended by transferring the Vladimir icon of the Mother of God to Moscow during the Tamerlane's invasion. After her five children were grown, she was tonsured as a nun, the first noblewoman of Moscow to enter the monastic life.

Saturday we commemorate Sts. Helen and Constantine (5/21). The library has several accounts of the history behind their feast day, but perhaps one of the best is in *A Child's Paradise of Saints* (KID/MCL) by the nun Nectaria McLees. Did you know that St. Helen was 70 years old when she found the True Cross? The first chapter in this book tells how God preformed a miracle that revealed to her the identity of Christ's cross, explains the sign of the cross and shows us a beautifully detailed icon of these saints of God. *St. Helen Finds the Cross of Jesus* (KID/STS/HEL) by Michelle Georgiou is another engaging book for younger readers. The story is written in large text, and each page has an accompanying brightly colored, full page illustration. Read more about them in *Road to Emmaus*, spring 2006 on p. 17, in *The Handmaiden*, summer 2000 on p. 50 and in *The Encyclopedia of Major Saints and Fathers of the Orthodox Church* (HAG - - - ELE).

### **The Newest new books at St. John Library:**

- *Disciples of Christ, The* (KID STS SPR) For middle schoolers. Biographies with iconographical illustrations of the twelve Disciples.
- *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for Children* (CAT SAC STJ) The text of Divine Liturgy accompanied with pictures of our service at St. John.
- *Elder Cleopa of Sihastria in the Tradition of St. Paisius Velichkovsky* (HAG CLE BAL)
- *Flickering Reflections* (SPR LIV ANT)
- *Genesis, Creation and Early Man* by Fr. Seraphim Rose (CAT SPEC ROSE)
- *On the Edge of the World* by Nicolai Leskov (FIC LES) *Orthodox Understanding of Salvation: Theosis in Scripture and Tradition, The* by Christopher Veniamin (CAT GEN VEN)
- *Parables of Christ, The* (KID CHU SPR) For middle schoolers. Retelling of Christ's parables.
- *Raven Son* by Nicholas Kotar (FIC KOT) Russian fairy tale.
- *Reclaiming the Atonement: the Incarnation*, vol. 1 by Fr. Patrick Reardon (CAT SPEC REA) Examination of salvation and redemption through the views of Scripture patristics, and liturgics.
- *Road to Golgotha, The*, by Christine Rogers (SCR COM ROG). *Singing Heart: a Book of Quiet Reflections* (SPR LIV ILY)