

From the Fathers (and others):

"Let us say, Brethren! And because of the Resurrection, let us forgive all things to those who hate us...' (Doxasticon of Pascha). You easily forgive yourself, if you have sinned against God, or against men; accordingly forgive other people, too. Love your neighbor as yourself, forgive him much."

St. John of Kronstadt

They're silent out of indifference...In these difficult days each must do what's in their power. And leave what's out of their power to the will of God. In this way our conscience will be clear.

St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

Fr. George Calciu tells a story about a time when, imprisoned by the Communists, he asked one of the cruelest guards for a piece of bread to celebrate the Liturgy in his cell. The guard's jaw dropped at the audacity of the request and he slammed the door... only to return a while later to silently slip him the requested bread. Fr. George concludes: 'So you can see the miracle. The most important miracle that God performed during my imprisonment was a miracle of the heart: not breaking the doors, not setting me free, not sending His angels flying into my cell, but changing the heart of my torturer. There is no miracle greater than this miracle.

Somebody who is Christ's must love Christ, and when he loves Christ he is delivered from the Devil, from hell and from death.

Elder Porphyrios

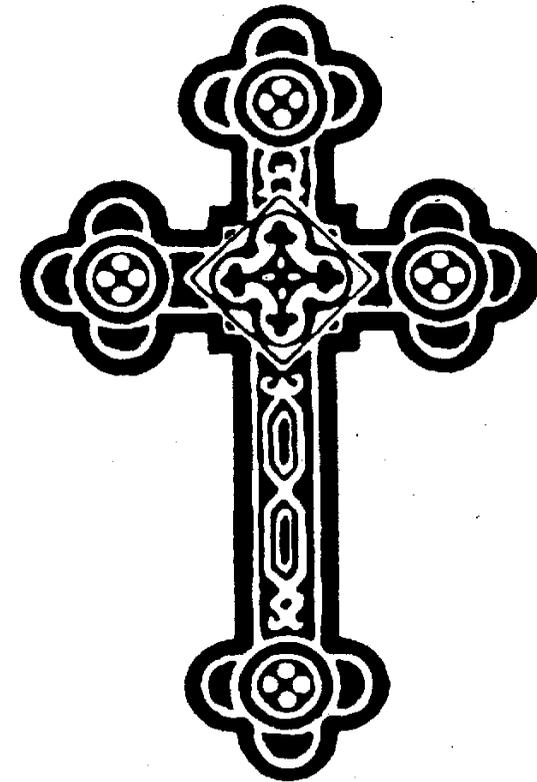
"We were created for eternal life by our Creator, we are called to it by the word of God, and we are renewed by holy Baptism. And Christ the Son of God came into the world for this, that He should call us and take us there, and He is the one thing needful. For this reason your very first endeavor and care should be to receive it. Without it everything is as nothing, though you have the whole world under you."

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

This is the way we should see Christ. He is our friend, our brother; He is whatever is good and beautiful. He is everything...He shouts it out, "I don't hold hell in my hands. I am not threatening you. I love you. I want you to enjoy life together with Me."

Elder Porphyrios

St. John Orthodox Church



~ May 21, 2017 ~
Sunday of the Blindman

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

www.stjohnmemphis.org

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

May 21, 2017 Sunday of the Blindman

Epistle: Acts 11:19-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Stephanie Harants**.

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 21 - 28 (*Wed. & Fri. fast)

- Sunday** -Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Teen/Pre-Teen Game Night
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m., The Work of Christ Our Salvation
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Orthros, 5:10 p.m.
-Divine Liturgy for Ascension, 6:00 p.m.
-Wednesday meal following liturgy, bring desserts to share
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -Orthros, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY – ASCENSION

Wednesday, May 24, 6:00 p.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Alex HOMILY: Fr. Alex
READER: Matt Spinolo
HOLY BREAD: Trish Ratliff
ALTAR SERVERS:

DIVINE LITURGY – HOLY FATHERS

Sunday, May 28, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Basil HOMILY: Fr. Basil
READER: Jack Turner USHER: Bill Harter
HOLY BREAD: Lavinia Dumitrache
ALTAR SERVERS: Pavel, Trent, Nicholas, Max
COFFEE HOUR: Monica Rustom, Jamie and Bethany White

*** 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



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



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.
May 23: Michael the Confessor, bishop of Synnada; New-martyr Luke; Myrrh-bearer Mary, wife of Cleopas; translation of the relics of Leontios the wonder-worker, bishop of Rostov; Euphrosinia of Polotsk.
May 24: Venerable Stylites Simeon the younger of the Mountain of Wonders and Nikitas of Pereyaslavl-Zaleski; Martyr Meletios the Generagl (“Stratelates”) of Galatia; Vincent of Lerins.
May 25: The third discovery of the honorable head of the Forerunner. Martyr Celestine; Demetrios the myrrh-streaming.
May 26: Apostles Karpos and Alphaios of the Seventy; Sinesios, bishop; New-martyr Alexander of Thessalonika; Augustine of Canterbury, evangelizer of England.
May 27: Hieromartyrs Halladios and Therapont, bishop of Sardis; Martyr Alypius; uncovering of the relics of Neilos the Younger, stylite of Seliger Lake; John the Russian, the confessor.
May 28: Hieromartyr Eutychios, bishop of Melitene; Martyr Helikonidos of Thessalonika; Venerable Andrew; Germanos, bishop of Paris; Ignatios, bishop of Rostov.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

May 14 - 21

Sunday	Acts	6:1, 12-20	John	9:1-8
Monday	Acts	17:1-9	John	11:47-54
Tuesday	Acts	17:19-28	John	12:19-36
Wednesday	Acts	18:22-28	John	12:36-47
Thursday	Acts	1:1-12	Luke	24:36-53
Friday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Matt	11:2-15
Saturday	Acts	20:7-12	John	14:10-21
Sunday	Acts	20:16-18, 28-36	John	17:1-13



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 Autrey (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.

Feast of Ascension – We will celebrate the feast of Ascension on Wednesday, May 24. Orthros will begin at 5:10 p.m. with Divine Liturgy following at 6:00 p.m. We will have a normal Wednesday meal following liturgy. Please feel free to bring desserts to share!

Sons of Thunder – Men’s book club will be meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Fr Philip's home. They will be discussing *Silence* by Shusaku Endo. All men are welcome, please bring a side dish or beverage.

New AWSJ Bible Study – The women of St. John will begin a study of the book of Job using Patrick Henry Reardon’s *Trial of Job* tomorrow night at Claire van Drimmelen’s home.

Trish has printed copies of the first few chapters for us! These are available on her desk, and she will bring them to the study on Monday night. There is a copy of the book available in the library as well.

This night is about growing closer as a community of women by reading God's word, discussing it and sharing our thoughts/struggles/joys. I hope that you can make it for all or part of it. Even if you don't have time to read ahead of time- join us. Even if you don't know one other person going- join us. Even if you NEVER cross the Parkways- carpool and join us. If you can't make it Monday- join us in reading the book on your own time. And if none of these apply- please pray for us (which is joining us, too!)

Graduate Sunday – We will recognize the new graduates listed below on Sunday, **June 4**. Please let the office know if we have inadvertently overlooked anyone.

High School

Cade Calcote	White Station High School
Deon Crum	St. Georges Independent School
Cailyn Ratliff	St. Agnes Academy

College/Graduate School

Billy Labonte	Ben Hight
Michael Williams	Luke Spinolo
Keith Parker	

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.

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 – Thank God, we continue to make progress on the building! Much of the duct work for the HVAC has been installed and the hood for the stove has arrived. It won't be long before the sheetrock will be put up and the openings made from our existing building into the new! Please, keep the workers in your prayers!!

Fund raising – Thank you for your help thus far!! We have not yet started drawing on our loan for the building but we will soon. If you would like to assist with that monthly commitment, you can speak to Fr. Philip. Every little bit helps!!

Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

- May 22** Women's Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. – Social Time, 7:00 p.m. discussion begins
Claire van Drimmelen's home
- June 12** AWSJ Book Club will be discussing *The Fifth Gospel* by Ian Caldwell
Upcoming: July 17 - *The Summer before the War* by Helen Simonson
- June 8** Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m. – *Contact Trish if you would like to host.*

Upcoming Special Services

- May 24** Divine Liturgy for Ascension, 6:00 p.m.
- May 28** Churching – Caitlin & Joseph Romero, and Chelsea & Andrew Yadron
- June 3** Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Souls, 9:00 a.m.
- June 4** Kneeling Vespers for Pentecost, 5:30 p.m.
Potluck following
- June 24** Holy Baptism of Anna Finley

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 5/21:** Mary Wren Williams
St. Helen/Elena: Ellie Moore, Pam Bowick
- Wednesday, 5/24:** Jonathan Koplín, Cindy Fong, William Labonte
- Thursday, 5/25:** Anniversary: Larry & Kendall Ichniowski
- Friday, 5/26:** Anniversary: Aaron & Melissa White
- Saturday, 5/27:** Anniversary: Nate & Ashley Powell

Library Lines

The Gospel of John devotes a whole chapter to the blind man we commemorate today. St. Basil says that he was born without eyes. St. Demetrius of Rostov tells us his name is St. Celidonius, and tradition says he went on to establish a church in Gaul.

Sunday, 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 STS 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) 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.

Tuesday, we honor St. Mary (5/23), one of the Myrrhbearers. As with several of them, she is identified by her husband, St. Cleopas (10/30), one of the Seventy. All we know of this holy woman is that she was the sister-in-law of the Theotokos and that she reposed peacefully. Read more about the Myrrhbearers in *The Life of the Virgin Mary: the Theotokos* (REF HAG HOL) and in *Christ in His Saints* (HAG - - - REA).

Wednesday, we remember Sts. Simeon and Nikita (5/24), two stylites. St. Simeon was the child of pious parents, and his childhood was similar in ways to that of John the Baptist. St. Simeon the Elder, also a stylite, trained him in love and ascetism. God gave this youth the gifts of wisdom and healing which he used for those who came to him for aid. He is also known for his letters on repentance, monasticism, the Incarnation, and Judgment Day.

Does it ever seem like Ascension gets lost between Pascha and Pentecost? Why didn't Jesus just stay with the Apostles? Frs. Patrick Reardon and Anthony M. Coniaris explain in *The Jesus We Missed: the Surprising Truth about the Humanity of Christ* (SCR COM REA) and *Sermons on the Major Holy Days of the Orthodox Church* (CAT SPEC CON), respectively, that the answer is wrapped up in the Trinity and that this event is part of our salvation. Read their comments and other accounts of this Feast in St. John Library.

This week we honor saints who are on opposing ends of the spectrum of success in the world's eyes. The Venerable Bede (5/27) was raised and educated in monasteries. He was ordained as a deacon at age 19 and a priest at 30. Tradition tells a story of his great love of the services of the Church. He believed that he should attend every service since the angels were present also. "What if they do not find me among the brethren when they assemble?" he asked. "Will they not say, 'Where is Bede?'" He is well-known for his biblical commentary, hagiography and church history of England. See *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (HIS BED) and "Bede's World: Early Christianity in the British Isles" in *Road to Emmaus*, #30, summer 2007, p. 3.

St. John the Russian (5/27) was a soldier under Tsar Peter I. He was captured by the Tartars and lived the rest of his life as a slave of the Muslim Turks. At first, he suffered because of his refusal to deny Christ, but gradually his firm but gentle words softened his captor's soul. He worked hard to please him and, consequently, incurred the anger of his fellow captives. However, he won them over by repaying their anger with kindness. His intercessions are asked by travelers and those transporting goods.