

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

Nobody can become a Christian by being lazy. It needs work, lots of work.”

Elder Porphyrios

“God's judgment is nothing else than our coming into contact with truth and light . . . Our hearts will be opened by the penetrating light of God, and what is in these hearts will be revealed. If in those hearts there is love for God, those hearts will rejoice seeing God's light. If, on the contrary, there is hatred for God in those hearts, these men will suffer by receiving on their opened hearts this penetrating light of truth which they detested all their life.”

Alexander Kalomiros

“Be on guard at all times so that you do not listen to any bad thoughts. Strive to push them away from the moment they appear, because once you have accepted them, they will turn into words and deeds.”

Elder Sergei of Vanves

“Hail (Mary), full of grace, the Lord is with thee.’ So does (the) Holy Church address the all-holy Virgin Mother of God. But the Lord is also with every devout soul that believes in Him; it is not only with her that he abides: ‘The Lord is with thee’ – these words may be addressed to everyone who keeps the Lord’s commandments.”

St. John of Kronstadt

“The Gospel teaches us to cut off the roots of our sins and not merely their fruits. When we have dug the root of anger out of our heart, we will no longer act with hatred or envy. ‘Whoever hates his brother is a murderer’ (I Jn. 3:15), for he kills him with the hatred in his mind. The blood of a man who has been slain by the sword can be seen by men, but blood shed by the hatred in the mind is seen by God, Who rewards each man with punishment or a crown not only for his acts but for his thoughts and intentions as well.”

St. John Cassian

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

St. John the Theologian

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## St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ May 8, 2016 ~*

*Thomas Sunday*

*Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian*



**COMMEMORATIONS**

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

**May 9:** Prophet Isaiah; Martyr Christopher of Lycia; Venerable-martyr Nicholas; translation to Bari of the relics of Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

**May 10:** Apostle Simon Zelotes; Venerable Laurence of Egypt.

**May 11:** Hieromartyr Mokios, priest in Macedonia; Cyril and Methodios, equals-to-the-Apostles and enlighteners of the Slavs; New-martyr Argyros; Venerable-martyr Olympia; Martyr Joseph of Astrakhan.

**May 12:** Germanos, patriarch of Constantinople, Epiphanius, bishop of Cyprus; Venerable Theodore of Kythera; New-martyr John of Wallachia; Hermogenes, patriarch of Moscow.

**May 13:** Virgin-martyr Glykeria of Heraklea; Sergios the Confessor; Venerable John the Georgian, founder of Iviron monastery on Athos and Venerable Euthymios, George and Gabriel of Iviron monastery; Venerable-martyrs of Iviron monastery.

**May 14:** Martyr Isidore of Chios; Hieromartyr Therapont; New-martyrs John of Bulgaria and Mark of Crete; Venerable Isidore of Rostov, fool-for-Christ.

**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; Demetrius, prince of Moscow.



**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** - 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 Karnaghon 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.

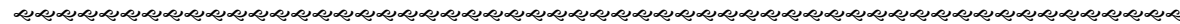
**Memphis Redbirds** – Join us on Thursday evening, June 2 as we support our Memphis as they Redbirds play against the New Orleans Zephyrs. Tickets are \$16.50 each and include a hat and hot dog. There is a sign up list available downstairs as well as an online link on the website.



**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**May 8 - 15**

Sunday	1 John	1:1-7	John	19:25-27, 21:24-25
Monday	Acts	3:19-26	John	2:1-11
Tuesday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	Luke	6:12-19
Wednesday	Acts	4:13-22	John	5:17-24
Thursday	Acts	4:23-31	John	5:24-30
Friday	Acts	5:1-11	John	5:30-6:2
Saturday	Acts	5:21-32	John	6:14-27
Sunday	Acts	6:1-7	Mark	15:43-16:8



**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.

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays**

<b>Sunday, 5/8</b>	Nathan Powell <i>St. John the Evangelist: Fr. John &amp; Dan O'Brien</i> <i>St. Emmelia: Julie Sanderlin, Emmelia Sanderlin, Emmelia Finley</i>
<b>Tuesday, 5/10</b>	Joel Finley, Dan O'Brien
<b>Wednesday, 5/11</b>	Mary Elliott
<b>Thursday, 5/12</b>	David Twombly

## Master Plan notes and updates

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

**Tuesday:**

	<b>Already Committed</b>	<b>% of Goal</b>	<b>Amount Collected</b>	<b>% Collected</b>
One time gifts	\$328,447	109.5%	\$111,262	33.9%
Parish households committing			58.7%	
Households Pledging one time gifts				
Total			46	
Fully paid			21	45.6%
Partially 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

## Prolife corner: Why should I – (or we) avoid In vitro fertilization?

From a traditional patristic Christian position, in vitro fertilization should be avoided altogether. The first and strongest reason to do so is that invariably the procedure results in multiple fertilized eggs. Consequentially, the discarding of the excess fertilized eggs is essentially abortion, the proactive taking of a life. Theologically, the Church has always seen conception as the beginning of life, or more to the point, a life. We celebrate festally the conception of Christ (Annunciation, March 25), the conception of the Theotokos (December 9), and the conception of John the Baptist (September 23). There are many more facets of this issue, but this one alone is enough to cause us to avoid the practice.

There are two excellent books covering this in substantial detail, as well as other matters that our 21<sup>st</sup> century world puts before us: [The Foundations of Christian Bioethics](#), by H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. Dr. Engelhardt was simultaneously Professor in the Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, and Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Rice University; [The Sacred Gift of Life](#), by Fr. John Breck. Fr. John was Professor of New Testament and Ethics at St. Vladimir Seminary until 1996.

## LIBRARY LINES

Today we honor St. Thomas who is remembered by the world as a doubter. Sometimes we forget that after Jesus was threatened in Judea and he asked his disciples to accompany Him to raise Lazarus, St. Thomas said, “Then let us also go that we may die with Him.” The Church praises Thomas for his honest doubt after the Resurrection because it led to a life driven by belief. St. John Chrysostom, in comparing him to the other apostles, says he “toiled through the grace of God more...zealously than them all as he ended up preaching in most of the known earth.” He was martyred in India, and his feast day is October 6.

Monday we commemorate the Prophet Isaiah (5/9). On Holy Friday and Pascha we sang, “Isaiah saw the never-setting light of the compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ. Rising early from the night he cried out, ‘The dead shall arise.’ Those in the tombs shall awake. All those on earth shall greatly rejoice.” His prophesies about the virgin birth and the sufferings of Christ were also gloriously put to music by George Handel in *The Messiah*. Isaiah died a martyr’s death, and his relics are on Mt. Athos.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius (5/11) are known as Equal to the Apostles and Enlighteners of the Slavs. Equal-to-the-Apostles is a special title given to some saints in recognition of their outstanding service in the spreading the Gospel, which is comparable to that of the original Apostles. (Among others who have been given this distinction are Sts. Mary Magdalene, Nina, Thekla, Helen and Constantine, Nicholas of Japan and Great Prince Vladimir.) Sts. Cyril and Methodius devised a Slavonic alphabet and translated books used in celebrating the divine services and almost the entire Old Testament. Investigate more about them in *Byzantium and the Slavs* (HIS OBO), *Orthodox Alaska* (HIS OLE), and *A Gift for Ianko* (KID STS CYR).

Saturday we honor the Venerable Isidore, the Fool-For-Christ (5/14). He lived a privileged childhood in Germany, but left home to find the Kingdom of God. He converted to Orthodoxy from Catholicism and wandered to Russia. He made his home in a wooden shack in Rostov. During the day he acted like a crazy man yet he was compassionate and worked miracles. By night, he slept little, praising God in all night vigils. In 1474 the townsmen discovered his body when they passed by his hut and smelled a sweet fragrance. The OCA website says that according to S.A. Bulgakov’s *Handbook for Clergy*, he was called Isidore Tvgerdislov, meaning “constant of word”, because he talked constantly. Read more about fools-for-Christ in *The Freedom of Morality* CAT SPEC YAN, *The Inner Kingdom* CAT SAC WAR, *Seraphim’s Seraphim* HAG SER HTM, and “Pillars to Heaven: Stylite Sites of the Levant” in *Road to Emmaus*, #22, summer 2005. Read about a modern day fool-for-Christ in *Crazy John* (BIO JOH MAK).

# *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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 on the sign up if you have questions.