

From the Fathers (and others):

“The big secret of the spiritual life is to live by the strength of God and not by our own strengths, to have Christ in ourselves.”

Elder Sergei of Vanves

“One should have a conscience which is clean and candid, as the Apostle says: ‘Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence before God and men (Acts 24:16); for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly (Heb. 13:18).’ For just as it is impossible for rain to fall without clouds, so too without a good conscience is it impossible to be well pleasing to the Lord. What is made manifest is light, and what is not made manifest is dark; therefore let us reveal to our father not only what we say, but also what we think. And there will come a time when we shall be judged not according to the book of knowledge and understanding, but according to the book of conscience.”

Abbot Nazarius

“You should continually and unceasingly call to mind all the blessings which God in His love has bestowed on you in the past, and still bestows for the salvation of your soul. You must not let forgetfulness of evil or laziness make you grow unmindful of these many and great blessings, and so pass the rest of your life uselessly and ungratefully.”

St. Mark the Ascetic

“Spiritual things are perceived with a different sense that is separate from our bodily senses: the eye of the heart.”

Elder Sergei of Vanves

“An old man who lived at Turren ardently practiced holy poverty and almsgiving. When a beggar approached his cell asking alms, the old man brought out the only thing he had - a single loaf of bread. The beggar said, ‘I don’t want bread. I need clothes.’ The old man, wanting to comfort him, took his hand and led him into his cell, which was empty. The beggar, seeing nothing and touched by the old man’s goodness, opened his wallet, and dumped everything he had on the floor. He said, ‘Take these, good abba, I will ask somewhere else for what I need.’”

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

St. John Orthodox Church



~ June 12, 2016 ~

*Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the
First Ecumenical Council*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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

June 12, 2016

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Janine Smith**.

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

June 12 – 19 (*Wed. & Fri. Fast)

Sunday -
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Barksdale's
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., meal following
Thursday -OFFICE CLOSED
Friday -OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -**Orthros, 8:45 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
-Pentecost Kneeling Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
-Pentecost Potluck

DIVINE LITURGY – Pentecost

Sunday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. John	HOMILY:	Fr. John
READER:	Matt Spinolo	USHER:	Bill Harter
HOLY BREAD:	Harvey family		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Alex, Cade, Elijah		
WELCOME TEAM:	Gary Karnaghan		
COFFEE HOUR:	Nawar & Reem Mansour, Anne Dugan, Dianna Hildebrand		

UPCOMING OUT OF OFFICE DATES FOR CLERGY

June 15 – 18	Fr. John & Fr. Philip, Parish Life Conference, Pensacola
June 19 – 25	Fr. John, vacation
June 20 – July 11	Fr. Philip, Camp St. Thekla
July 18 – 22	Fr. Philip, Clergy Symposium

(THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JUNE 16 – 21)

** 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

June 12: Venerable Onouphrios the Great; Venerable Peter the Athonite; Venerable Arsenios of Konevits.

June 13: Martyr Aquilina of Byblos in Syria; Antipater, bishop of Bostra in Arabia; Triphyllios, bishop of Leucosia (Nicosia) in Cyprus.

June 14: Prophet Elisha; Methodios the Confessor, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Niphon of Athos; Cyril, bishop of Crete.

June 15: Prophet Amos; Apostles Achaikos, Stephen and Fourtunatos of the Seventy; Venerable Jerome of Stridonium and Augustine, bishop of Hippo; Jonah, metropolitan of Moscow; Martyr Lazarus, Serbian prince.

June 16: Tikhon the wonder-worker, bishop of Amathos in Cyprus; Venerable Tikhon of Kaluga.

June 17: Martyrs Isauros, Basil, Innocent, Hermes, Felix and Peregrinos of Athens; Martyrs Manuel, Sabel and Ismael of Persia; Venerable Joseph and Pior, disciples of Anthony the Great; Martyr Nectan of Hartland.

June 18: Martyrs Leontios, Hypatios and Theodoulos of Tripoli in Syria; Venerable Leontios the Hagiorite of Dionysiou monastery on Athos.

June 19: Apostle Jude (Thaddeus), brother of the Lord; Venerable Paisios the Great and Zenon; Martyr Zosimas the Soldier at Antioch in Pisidia.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			June 12 - 19
Sunday	Acts	20:16-18, 28-36	John 17:1-13
Monday	Acts	21:8-14	John 14:27-15:7
Tuesday	James	5:10-20	Luke 4:22-30
Wednesday	Acts	23:1-11	John 16:15-23
Thursday	Acts	25:13-19	John 16:23-33
Friday	Acts	27:1-28:1	John 17:18-26
Saturday	Acts	28:1-31	John 21:14-25
Sunday	Acts	2:1-11	John 7:37-52; 8:12

Pray for our catechumens: Memphis - Ben Arthur; Marshall & Kathryn McWhorter.

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, 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), Elfrieda Drobashevsky, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



St. Paul Skete - All are invited to St. Paul Skete for the Divine Liturgy to celebrate their patronal feast on Wednesday, June 29th; the schedule is posted on the bulletin board downstairs. As noted, please let Mother Nektaria know if you do plan to come so she can better arrange for the meal. In any case, please remember the skete in your holy prayers.

Parish Hall Tables – There are several items waiting to be taken home on the piano and front table of the parish hall. Please look to see if any of these items belong to you.

Parish floor maintenance – Thank you to everyone who offered in some way to help us find a solution for care of our floors. We are blessed that **Ben Hight** has agreed to do the work regularly, and it appears to be a good job for him and a great solution for all of us.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – CGS is looking for catechist assistants for the coming year, or for those who may want be catechists in the future. If you are interested in learning more about what we do in the atrium, please contact Claire van Drimmelen at cvandrim@gmail.com.

For all our members – Remember, in many ways coffee hour is a ministry that we can all take part in. We should all be greeters whether we're official or not! Let's all take the opportunity to speak to at least one person we don't know or someone who we haven't talked with in a while during coffee hour. So many of us are here in part because someone else made the effort to do the same with us!

A hero honored – One of our parishioners is a true American hero! Buddy Taylor (Lt. James M. Taylor), who will be 94 years old in two weeks, was honored on Saturday, June 4, at a class reunion for his service in the military, and as a Prisoner of War. Buddy was a member of the 1st American Volunteer Group (AVG) of the Chinese Air Force, nicknamed the Flying Tigers, which was composed of pilots from the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and United States Army Air Corps. Buddy is one of only four of the group still alive, and the only one who lives in Tennessee.

He was accepted into the service on September 16, 1942 and became part of the Flying Tigers once he finished the pilot training program. After finishing the training program, he was sent to China in 1944. At the age of 22, just before Thanksgiving on November 11, 1944, he was flying missions in China and found himself in serious trouble. His plane got in trouble when it was hit by Japanese fire and he found his pland going down. He realized he was going to have to bail out of the burning plane, which he did, landing close to the burning wreckage. He was quickly captured by Japanese soldiers.

Thanks be to God, Buddy survived as you all know. You no doubt want to know more! **There are copies of the fuller story in the parish hall.** May we all realize the blessings we have in this country because of men like Buddy! God bless you, Buddy!!!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Women of St. John - AWSJ

- June 13** **Book Club**, 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home
Ladies Auxiliary by Tova Mirvis (of Memphis)
- July 14** **Women's Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., location TBD

Men of St. John

- June 12** **Son's of Thunder (Men's Book Club)**, 6:00 p.m., Dn. James' home - Discussion of *Byzantium* by Stephen Lawhead. Food and drink contributions are welcome.



St. John Summer Pool Party

at the Rhodes College pool

Monday, July 11th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

(Upcoming: July 25)

What to Bring:

- Swim suits, towels, etc.
- Items to grill for your family (The grill will be fired up!)
- Drinks for your family (no alcohol, please)
- Side and/or dessert to share with everyone

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Monday, 6/13	Sh. Corinne Elliott <i>Anniversary: Fr. Basil & Kh. Susan Cushman</i>
Tuesday, 6/14	Ethan van Drimmelen, Adam Boone
Wednesday, 6/15	<i>Anniversary: Nawar & Reem Mansour</i>
Thursday, 6/16	Ben Hodges
Friday, 6/17	Samir Rustom <i>Anniversary: Dn. James & Sh. Corinne Elliott</i>

LIBRARY LINES

Today we remember the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Our hymnography for today is full of familiar names including Sts. Constantine, Athanasius, Eusebius, and Nicholas. These courageous, truth-loving men opposed the heresy of Arius and proclaimed the divine nature of Jesus as we reaffirm in the Nicene Creed. They also set the method by which the date of Pascha is calculated and declared that standing is the correct position for prayer. Read more about the Ecumenical Councils in *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* HIS/DAV, *The History of the Council of Florence* HIS/OST, *The Church of the Ancient Councils* (HIS/LHU), *The Oecumenical Synods of the Orthodox Church: a Concise History* (HIS/THO), and *The Foundations of Social Order* (HIS/RUS).

We frequently confuse the Prophet Elisha (6/14) with his predecessor Elias (Elijah). He boldly asked him for a double portion of the grace of God when Elias was taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot. He served for over 65 years as a prophet during the reign of six kings. The Wisdom of Sirach says, "And no one oppressed him. No word could overcome him." He raised the dead, healed a leper, and worked miracles over water and dry land. St. Nicholas Planas was very devoted to the prophet and was granted visions of him.

Wednesday we commemorate the Prophet Amos (6/15). Unlike most prophets, he came from a family of shepherds and was unschooled. He also was a pruner of sycamore trees. Being an outdoorsman, he employed vivid imagery in his writing – wagons, grasshoppers, birds, and cattle. He spoke well, using poetic devices and picturesque speech to prophesy the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Christ. In some of his icons he is shown as an old man who resembles St. John the Theologian. Read more about him in *The Old Testament: Prophetic Traditions* (REF SCR COM TAR) and *The Holy Prophets*. (REF HAG HOL)

NEW BOOKS FOR YOUR SUMMER READING!!

Christ the Conqueror of Hell: the Descent into Hades from an Orthodox Perspective by Archb. Hilarion Alfeyev (CAT SPEC HIL)

Laurus by Eugene Vodolazkin (FIC VOD) Tale of a fool-for-Christ in medieval Russia

Three Prayers: The Lord's Prayer, O Heavenly King, the Prayer of Saint Ephraim (SPR PRA OLI) by Oliver Clement



REGULAR ALMS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Birthright ☩ St. John Alms Fund ☩ St. Brigid Food Pantry ☩ Rachel's Kids, Inc. ☩ St. John Camping Fund ☩ Nativity Alms for the Homeless ☩ Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Mission Fund ☩ Michael & Abigail Bittle Fund