

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

Take care of your body as if you are going to live forever, and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow.

St Augustine

"The goal of reading is the application, in our lives, of what we read. Not to learn it by heart, but to take it to heart. Not to practice using our tongues, but to be able to receive the tongues of fire and to live the mysteries of God." -

Elder Paisios the Athonite

Poemen said, "Teach your mouth to say that which you have in your heart."

Sayings of the Desert Father

"If you worship Christ in your heart, you can save your kinsfold as well as yourself; if your heart worships father and mother, son and daughter, you will certainly lose both yourself and them."

St. Nicholai of Zica

Abba Isidore said, 'When I was younger and remained in my cell I set no limit to prayer; the night was for me as much the time of prayer as the day.'

Sayings of the Desert Father

Abba Poemen said that Abba John said that the saints are like a group of trees, each bearing different fruit, but watered from the same source. The practices of one saint differ from those of another, but it is the same Spirit that works in all of them.

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

# St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ June 25, 2017 ~*  
*Third Sunday after Pentecost*



**COMMEMORATIONS**



**ST. JOHN COMMUNITY**



**June 25:** Venerable-martyr Febronia of Nisibis; Martyr Longinos; Venerable Prokopios of the skete of Iviron on Athos; Venerable Dionysios the Hagiorite, founder of Dionysiou monastery on Athos; Venerable Dometios, abbot of Dionysiou monastery on Athos; Prince Peter (Venerable David) and Princess Febronia (Venerable Euphrosyne), wonder-workers of Murom.

**June 26:** Venerable David of Thessalonika; John, bishop of the Goths.

**June 27:** Sampson the host of strangers; Mary and Joanna the myrrh-bearers.

**June 28:** The translation of the relics of Cyros and John the unmercenary healers; Martyrs Papios and Paul; Venerable Moses the anchorite; Venerable Simeon; Venerable Sergios and Herman, wonder-workers of Valaam.

**June 29:** Apostles Peter and Paul.

**June 30:** The synaxis of the Twelve Apostles. New-martyr Michael.

**July 1:** Unmercenary Cosmas and Damian, martyrs in Rome; New-martyr Constantine; translation of the relics of Venerable John of Rila from Trnovo to Rila.

**July 2:** The commemoration of the placing of the Robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae. Juvenaly, archbishop of Jerusalem; the new-martyrs of Samothrace; repose of Job, first patriarch of Moscow.

**Upcoming out of town dates for clergy:**

**July 2-8:** Fr. Philip, vacation; Fr. Alex, camp

**July 24-28:** Archdiocese Convention

**Sons of Thunders Men’s Book Club** – The men will be meet on July 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Dn. James’ home to discuss *The Cure for Consumerism* by Fr. Gregory Jensen

**Catechumen/Inquirers Class** (Alternating Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.) – A reminder to our parishioners, you do not have to be a catechumen or inquirer to come to class! Everyone is welcome! For those who may be missing Wednesday teachings over the summer, this is a good alternative. Upcoming dates and topics are:

June 27 – The Lord’s Prayer

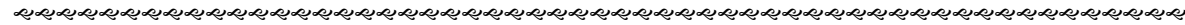
July 11 – The Lord’s Prayer continued

July 25 – The 10 Commandments

**Online Sign Ups** – Take a look at the online sign up page of the website; there are several opportunities to get involved in mercy meals as well as coffee hour and alms.

**Back to School Backpack Alms** – St. John will be participating in the FOCUS Back to School Backpack program this year. FOCUS North America is “a national movement of Orthodox Christians, united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America.” They will be sending us 50 backpacks to be filled with various school supplies collected by the parish. St. John will then provide the filled bags to Snowden School for those in need. The list of supplies needed is provided in the bulletin insert, downstairs in the parish hall, and on our website on the online sign up page. Please have all donations to the church the morning of July 30. The teens will be filling the bags later that day.

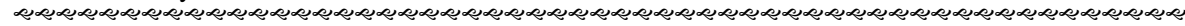
**Looking ahead to our move into St. Raphael Hall – Housekeeping** – As we approach our move next door, and more specifically renovations to our existing building, we will need to clean up, clean out, and reorganize the downstairs. There will be much moving and dust and we don’t want your belongings to disappear or be ruined in the process!



**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**June 18 - 25**

Sunday	Romans	5:1-11	Matthew	6:22-33
Monday	Romans	9:18-33	Matthew	11:2-15
Tuesday	Romans	10:11-11:2	Matthew	11:16-20
Wednesday	Romans	11:2-12	Matthew	11:20-26
Thursday	2 Corinthians	11:21-12:9	Matthew	16:13-19
Friday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	Matthew	9:36-10:8
Saturday	1 Corinthians	12:27-31, 13:1-8	Matthew	10:1, 5:8
Sunday	Hebrews	9:1-7	Matthew	8:5-13



**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 Bellaflares, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

**REGULAR ALMS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Birthright ☩ St. John Alms Fund ☩ St. Brigid Food Pantry ☩ St. John Camping Fund ☩  
 ☩ Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Mission Fund ☩ Michael & Abigail Bittle Fund

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Tuesday, 6/27:** Fiona Harvey  
*Johanna, the Myrrh-bearer: Fiona Harvey, Joanna Spinolo*
- Wednesday, 6/28:** Michael Yadron
- Thursday, 6/29:** Anniversary: John & Sue Brownlow  
*St. Paul: Pavel Harvey, Paul Elliott, Silas Powell, Pauline Koplín*  
*St. Peter: Weston Leopold*
- Friday, 6/30:** *James, the brother of our Lord: Jamie White*
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## Master Plan Updates

**Progress on the St Raphael Hall** – The sheetrock is up throughout the building and the opening on the second floor has been cut into the building! Soon, the bricks will arrive and the building will begin to really look complete! Please, keep all of the workers in your prayers as they continue this important project.

**Fund raising** – Thank you for your help thus far!! This month we will begin to draw on the construction loan. If you would like to help with our monthly commitment to the loan, please let Fr. Philip know.

### Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

- July 10** **Women’s Bible Study**, 6:30 p.m. – Social Time, 7:00 p.m. discussion begins. We will meet at Mindy Williams’ home to discuss Ch. 4-7. Handouts are available in the office.
- July 13** **Women’s Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., location to be determined
- July 17** **AWSJ Book Club** will be discussing *The Summer before the War* by Helen Simonson

## Library Lines

This month we commemorate several icons of the Theotokos. The wonderworking icon of the Theotokos of Tikhvin (6/26) was painted by St. Luke. It was taken from Jerusalem to Constantinople in the fifth century. In 1383 fishermen saw the icon surrounded by light and miraculously hovering over the water. It also appeared in other towns and protected Novgorod from attack by the intercessions of the Theotokos. In later years, it was covered by a “riza,” adorned by precious stones and showing only the hands and faces of the Virgin and Christ Child. The icon survived during the Communist Revolution and was taken to Latvia by the Nazis, then to Bavaria. When discovered by Communists in 1949, it was taken to the United States under the pretext of being a copy. In 2003, it was returned to Russia.

St. Sampson the Hospitable (6/27) is a saint who intended to pursue his salvation by living in the wilderness but was given a different path by God. Christ directed him to spend his time among men rather than live in solitude. He welcomed homeless wanderers, the sick and the poor to his small house. God gave him the gifts of healing and wonderworking, and he served the needy until his old age. After his peaceful death, his intercessions to God saved the hospice he founded from a powerful fire.

Wednesday, we commemorate another icon. The Theotokos of “the Three Hands” (6/28) is connected with St. John of Damascus, the hymnographer. Because of the saint’s love for icons, the iconoclast emperor, Leo III, made an accusation of treason against him to the caliph of Damascus. As punishment, the caliph ordered his hand to be cut off. St. John prayed to the Theotokos for healing, and his hand was restored to his wrist with a faint red visible line. He placed a hand of silver on her icon, and the icon has been known by its name, “Of the Three Hands” since then. Read about it in *The Orthodox Word*, #241, 2005 p. 77, in *Orthodox America*, #50, 1985, p. 4. Find more about all these icons in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary and Prayers for Her Intercession* (ART ICO KHO). See this icon and stories of other saints commemorated this week in St. John Library. You can read about other icons of the Theotokos and their explanations in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary and Prayers for Her Intercession*. It’s on the display cart.

Have you ever wondered how people get to be saints in the Orthodox Church? Read chapter 5 in *Selected Essays* (CAT GEN POM) by Protopresbyter Michael Pomazansky. He tells us the development of the process and the reason for it, which he says, “is among the most important activities of the Church.”

The Blessed Angelina (7/1) was a Serbian princess. She and her husband Stephan were the parents of St. John of Serbia. When the Turks threatened them, they fled to Albania and Italy. She lived as a monastic after the death of her husband and son. Their relics were incorrupt and many were healed by those who venerated them. Read about her life in *Married Saints of the Church* HAG - - - MOS and in "Saint Angelina of Serbia" in *The Handmaiden*, fall 2005, on page 38. She is also commemorated in December and later in July.