

From the Fathers (and others):

Abba Matoes said, "The nearer a man draws to God, the more he sees himself a sinner."
Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Abba Xanthias said, The thief was on the cross and he was justified by a single word; and Judas who was counted in the number of the apostles lost all his labor in one single night and descended from heaven to hell. Therefore let no one boast of his good works, for all those who trust in themselves fall.

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Abba Ammonas was asked, 'What is the "narrow and hard way?" (Matt. 7.14) He replied, 'The "narrow and hard way" is this, to control your thoughts, and to strip yourself of your own will, for the sake of God. This is the meaning of the sentence, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you."' (Matt. 19.26) (p 28)

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Abba Anthony said, 'I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, "What can get through from such snares?" Then I heard a voice saying to me, "Humility."

The Sayings of the Desert Fathers

For now is the time to labour for the Lord, for salvation is found in the day of affliction: for it is written: 'In your patience gain ye your souls' (Luke 21:19).

Abba Isidore- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Abba Copres said, 'blessed is he who bears affliction with thankfulness.'

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

The whole life of a man is but one single day for those who are working hard with longing.

Abba Gregory the Theologian

St. John Orthodox Church



~ July 16, 2017 ~
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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

July 16, 2017

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Reem Mansour**.

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

July 16-23 (Wed & Fri. Fast)

- Sunday** -Sons of Thunder, 6:30 p.m., Dn. James' home
- 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.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
-Meal following Vespers
-Parish Council, 7:00 p.m.
- 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.**

Upcoming out of town dates for clergy:

July 24-28: Archdiocese Convention - Fr. Philip & Fr. Alex

Upcoming Baptisms

August 19 Joseph Romero

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, July 16, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Alex
READER:	David Twombly	USHER:	John Sneed
HOLY BREAD:	Karen Bell		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Pavel, Nicholas, Max, Alex		
COFFEE HOUR:	Kate Kumar and Anna Pashchinskaya		

COMMEMORATIONS



July 16: Hieromartyr Athenogenes, bishop of Herakleopolis; the 15,000 martyrs of Pisidia.

July 17: Great-martyr Marina of Antioch in Pisidia; Venerable-Irenarchos of Solovskiy.

July 18: Martyr Emilianos of Silistria in Bulgaria; John, metropolitan of Chalcedon; Stephen, patriarch of Constantinople.

July 19: Venerable Macrina, sister of St. Basil the Great; Venerable Dios of Antioch; Theodore, archbishop of Ephesos; uncovering of the relics of Venerable Seraphim of Sarov; Stephen Lazarevic.

July 20: Prophet Elijah (Elias); Righteous Iliya Chavchavadze of Georgia.

July 21: Venerable Simeon of Homs, fool-for-Christ; John and Parthenios, bishop of Radovizliios; Venerable Arta; Martyr Victor of Marseilles.

July 22: Mary Magdalene, myrrh-bearer and equal-to-the-Apostles; Virgin-martyr Markella of Chios.

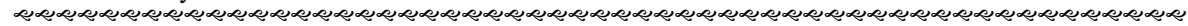
July 23: Hieromartyrs Phocas and Apollonios; Hieromartyr Apollinaris, bishop of Ravenna; Prophet Ezekiel.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 16-24

Sunday	Titus	3:8-15	Matthew	5:14-19
Monday	Galatians	3:23-29, 4:1-5	Mark	5:24-34
Tuesday	1 Corinthians	6:20; 7:1-12	Matthew	14:1-13
Wednesday	1 Corinthians	7:12-24	Matthew	14:35-36; 15:1-11
Thursday	James	5:10-20	Luke	4:22-30
Friday	1 Corinthians	7:35-40, 8:1-7	Matthew	15:29-31
Saturday	1 Corinthians	9:2-12	Luke	8:1-3
Sunday	Romans	15:1-7	Matthew	9:27-35



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis –Justin Bowles, Lucas Whatley, Tom Ashworth, Allie Helms, Jon Mark and Heather Hetrick, Ian Curry, John Curry, Kendall Ichniowski, Marissa Kizer, and Jamie Escue.

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), Janine Smith (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.

Church Contributions – We are a busy community with lots of wonderful things happening each week along with big our building project! To maintain all of those things takes the continuous support of the community. At the half way point of the year, we are significantly behind in our projected contributions for the year. If you have fallen behind with your commitment to the Church, now is the time to catch back up. Thank you for your continued support of our community!

Parish Council recommendations – It is once again time for our parishioners to recommend new members for the parish council. Recommendation forms can be found downstairs in the parish hall. Please list 3 recommendations in order of preference and return this form to the office or place it in the offering plate or the envelope in the parish hall. Current parish council members who will continue through next year are: **Fr. Philip, Christine McGee, Anne Dugan, and Dan O’Brien.**

To remind everyone, the council has 7 members, two of whom are ex-officio – the pastor and the business manager. The clergy select one from their midst to represent them. The remaining members are appointed by the pastor for two-year terms which are staggered. Since we do not have a business manager currently, there are 5 lay members again this year, giving the council a full complement of seven.

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

Parish Hall – All items in the parish hall, downstairs hallway, and room off the kitchen have been placed in boxes stored in the room off the kitchen. If you are missing something, feel free to look through these boxes. We will be donating the boxes to Goodwill the week of July 24.

New Catechumen - Tom Ashworth, Allie Helms, Jon Mark and Heather Hetrick, Ian Curry, John Curry, Kendall Ichniowski, Marissa Kizer, and Jamie Escue will be enrolled as catechumen today between Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Please keep them and their sponsors in your prayers as they take this important step towards being received into the Church.

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.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 7/16:	Nawar Mansour <i>St. Julia of Carthage: Julia Alissandratos, Julia Spinolo</i>
Monday, 7/17:	Chris Utley <i>St. Marina: Veronica Criswell</i>
Tuesday, 7/18:	Anniversary: Bill and Jennifer Stanek
Wednesday, 7/19:	<i>St. Macrina: Sh. Corinne Elliott</i>
Thursday, 7/20:	<i>Prophet Elijah: Eli White, Elie Steele, Eli Morris, Elliott Longa</i>
Friday, 7/21:	Janan Heisig
Saturday, 7/22:	Claire McKelvy <i>St. Mary Magdalene: Madeleine Boiles, Janan Heisig, Margie Yarbro, Tina McKelvy, Claire McKelvy</i>

Master Plan Updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – These next few weeks will be HUGE!!! The crew is expecting the elevator to be installed and the air conditioning to be fully functional next week. The bricks have arrived but the base stonework is still en route and should begin next week. The first coats of paint have been put on. I hope you saw the video on the Facebook page. May God continue to watch over the work!!

Fund raising – Thank you for your help thus far!! We have begun drawing on the loan to complete the project. 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 17	AWSJ Book Club will be discussing <i>The Summer before the War</i> by Helen Simonson
August 17	Women's Bible Study , 6:30 p.m. – Social Time, 7:00 p.m. discussion begins. We will meet at Kh. Kathryn's home to discuss Ch. 8-15. Handouts are available in the office.
August	Women's Teaching , 10:00 a.m., location to be determined

Library Lines

We commemorate many pious and influential women saints in July. St. Marina, honored July 17, was a pious virgin who lived during Emperor Diocletian's reign. At age fifteen she was disowned by her father for being a Christian and was imprisoned and tortured. Many people confessed Christ as they witnessed the miraculous healing of her wounds after being burned and beaten. She finally was beheaded along with those who believed in Christ because of her faith. See her story in "Great Martyr Marina" in *Orthodox America*, issue 117, July-August 1992, p. 8.

St. Macrina's feast day is Wednesday (7/19). She was a beacon of light to her entire family including her siblings, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa. Like the Theotokos, she was betrothed but never married. She cared for her widowed mother's physical needs and was a standard of asceticism for her. Look for more about her in *Keeper of the Light: St. Macrina the Elder, Grandmother of Saints (KID STS MAC)* and in "Saint Macrina: the Teacher" in *Orthodox America*, issue 141, July 1996, p. 8.

The Prophet Elijah (7/20) is one of the most colorful characters in the Scriptures, his influence present in the Old and New Testaments. He was born in the tribe of Levi and served God from his youth. King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, led Israel into idol worship and did not repent. So, the prophet foretold a severe drought for nation. In three years, Elijah slew the pagan priests and prayed to God for rain. The land was quenched; Ahab acknowledged the true God, but Jezebel did not. Because Elijah was a shining zealot for God, he was taken up into Heaven in a fiery chariot. He is shown to us again conversing with Christ at the Transfiguration. We ask his intercessions for clement weather and relief from drought. Children may read about him in *The Story of Elijah (KID STS ELI)*, *The Transfiguration of Our Lord (KID CHU ELA)*, and *Christina's Favorite Saints (KID STS KHO)*. Adults will find more about him in "Elijah and the Friend of Man" in *Life Transfigured*, summer 2000 on p. 6 and in "Prayer to the Holy Prophet Elijah in Time of Drought" in *The Veil*, summer 2002 on p. 4.

Mary Magdalene (7/22) is honored in a very special, children's book in St. John Library. *A Child's Paradise of Saints (KID STS MCL)*, by the nun Nectaria McLees, gives us a glimpse into her life. This account is accompanied by an icon-styled illustration showing her offering a red egg to Caesar. Read more about her in *Miracle of the Red Egg (KID PAS JOH)*.

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