

From the Fathers (and others):

The monks once inquired of St. Paisios the Great: "Father, speak to us a word of salvation. How should we live according to God?" The elder replied to them: "Go and keep the commandments of God and preserve the tradition of the Fathers."

A man must practice good works for a long time, with great effort and determination, and "at last God comes, dwells within him and he in the Lord, and the Lord Himself sows His own commandments within him, filling him with spiritual fruit."

St. Marcarius the Great - Homily 19

He who receives experiences human joy. But he who gives experiences divine joy. Divine joy comes to us by giving.

Elder Paisios of Mount Athos

Your skill is not in what you do, but how you do it. (Speaking about humility in one's work)

Abba Pambo- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Abba Isidore of Pelusia said, 'Prize virtues and do not be the slave of glory; for the former are immortal, while the latter soon fades.'

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

"The proud man thinks he can comprehend everything with his mind. The Lord does not grant this... The Lord does not manifest Himself to the proud soul. Pride is difficult to detect in oneself, but the Lord leaves the proud to be tormented by their impotence until they humble themselves."

St. Silouan

When someone starts making concessions to sin, he darkens inside, the eyes of the soul are clouded and he can no longer see clearly. Moreover, he is polluted by sin, and sin confuses and entangles him, causing him to see even the pure as sinful.

Elder Paisios of Mount Athos

St. John Orthodox Church



~ July 2, 2017 ~
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

July 3: Martyrs Hyacinth and Theodota of Caesarea in Cappadocia; Anatolios, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable-martyr Gerasimos the New of Carpenision; Venerable Joachim; translation of the relics of Philip the wonder-worker, metropolitan of Moscow; Venerable Nikodemus of Kozhe Lake.

July 4: Andrew, bishop of Crete, author of the Great Canon; Martyrs Theodore of Cyrene and Lucia; Venerable Andrew Rublev.

July 5: Venerable Athanasios the Athonite, founder of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable hieromartyr Cyprian of St. George kelli on Athos; Venerable Lampados of Irenoupolis; the synaxis of the 23 martyrs of Lesvos; uncovering of the relics of Venerable Sergios the wonder-worker of Radonezh.

July 6: Venerable Sisoës the Great; Apostles Archippos, Philemon and Onesimos of the Seventy; Martyrs Lucia, Epimachos and Alexander; Venerable-martyr Cyril.

July 7: Great-martyr Kyriaki of Nicomedia; Hieromartyr Evangelos, bishop of Tomi (Constanta) in Romania; New-martyr Polycarp; Venerable Thomas of Mt. Maleon; Eudokia, princess of Moscow.

July 8: Great-martyr Prokopios of Caesarea in Palestine; New-martyrs Thophanes and Anastasios of Constantinople; Venerable Theophilos the myrrh-streaming of St. Basil kelli on Athos; Prokopios of Ustug, fool-for-Christ.

July 9: Hieromartyr Pankratios, bishop of Taormina in Sicily; Methodios, bishop; New-martyr Michael; Venerable Photios; Venerable Dionysios the Orator, first settler of Small St. Anne skete on Athos, and his disciple Venerable Metrophanes.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 2 - 9

Sunday	Hebrews	9:1-7	Matthew	8:5-13
Monday	Romans	6:18-23	Matthew	12:9-13
Tuesday	Romans	14:9-19	Matthew	12:14-17, 22-30
Wednesday	Galatians	5:22-6:2	Matthew	11:27-30
Thursday	Romans	15:17-29	Matthew	12:46-50, 13:1-3
Friday	Romans	16:1-16	Matthew	13:3-9
Saturday	1 Timothy	4:9-15	Luke	6:17-19, 9:1, 10:16-22
Sunday	Romans	10:1-10	Matthew	8:28-34, 9:1



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.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Parish Hall – All items in the parish hall, downstairs hallway, and room off the kitchen will be placed in boxes this week and stored in the room off the kitchen. We will be donating the boxes to Goodwill the week of July 24. **Please take all items that belong to you home today!**

If you are leaving something for someone else to pick up, please put their name on it and your name on it so that we will know who to contact if the item is left for a time.

Wednesday at St. John – Due to the travel schedules of our priests, there will be NO VESPERS or Wednesday meal this week.

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:

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 (Parish – Online Assignments & Sign Ups); 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.

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

Sunday, 7/2:	Joseph Labonte
Monday, 7/3:	Meribeth Harvey, Mark Ortwein
Tuesday, 7/4	Joe Hodges Anniversary: Fr. Philip & Kh. Kathryn, Nidal & Amal Salloum <i>Martha, mother of Simon: Betsy Larker</i>
Wednesday, 7/5:	Jamie White
Thursday, 7/6:	Gabe de la Torre, Ben Hight <i>St. Sisoes: Ben Hight</i>
Saturday, 7/8:	Sarah Anne Cameron, Jodi Yzaguirre

Master Plan Updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – The sheetrock is up and sanded and the doorways have been cut through to the Church building. This week, we should begin to see the stone work going up around the base of the building. Once that is completed, the bricks will begin to be placed. Things continue to come together! O Holy Father, Raphael, pray unto God for us!

Fund raising – Thank you for your help thus far!! After paying our bills for this month, we will begin 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 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., Judy Terry's home
July 17	AWSJ Book Club will be discussing <i>The Summer before the War</i> by Helen Simonson

Library Lines

The word "Hyacinth" brings up an image of sweetness and delicacy in our mind's eye. However, St. Hyacinth (7/3), a child martyr, was given strength and endurance through God's grace. He was a secret Christian and chamberlain in the household of Emperor Trajan. Another servant betrayed him and he was put on trial. After being whipped, he was given food that had been sacrificed to idols. Hyacinth refused to eat it and died after 38 days. His jailer saw two angels in the saint's cell; one covered his body with his cloak and the other placed a crown on his head. Read more about him in *The Encyclopedia of the Major Saints and Fathers* (HAG - - - ELE).

This week on July 4th we commemorate two St. Andrews, both of whom glorified God through the arts. St. Andrew of Crete was mute as a young child, not speaking until age seven. He composed the beautiful Canon we sing during Lent as well as other hymns of the Church. *First Fruits of Prayer* (SPR PRA MAT) by Frederica Mathewes-Green is a forty-day journey through this beautiful, great hymn of repentance. Each portion of the canon is printed with accompanying Scripture references and commentary. The book begins with a general introduction and historical background of the canon. I highly recommend it for catechumens and "old-timers" alike. Read more about him in *Cretan Saints* (HAG - - - TIT).

St. Andrew Rublev, a monk at an early age, painted an icon of the Holy Trinity, the *Hospitality of Abraham*. Although he was not the first to write this icon, his is considered the classic. Unlike earlier ones, Abraham and Sarah are not shown. In his icon, the table becomes an altar and the food on it is replaced by a chalice, representing the Eucharist. The three angels' similar appearance shows their harmony. They incline their heads toward each other and look at the others in love and submission. St. John Library has a good collection of beautiful books on icons including *The Rublev Trinity* (ART ICO BUN). They are on the first shelf of the circulating books. Their spine codes begin with ART/ICO.

St. Sisoes (7/6) is imprinted on our minds because of the memorable icon, *The Astonishment of Sisoes*. The icon, on the bulletin board in St. John library, shows him standing over the open coffin of Alexander the Great. According to *A Reader's Guide to Orthodox Icons* website, "This icon is a contemplation on death, but not only the death of a man, but of an earthly empire." The inscription reads, "The mere sight of you, tomb, dismays me and causes my heart to shed tears, as I contemplate the debt we, all men, owe. How can I possibly stand it? Of, death! Who can evade you?" The Desert Father, a disciple of St. Anthony the Great, lived in the Egypt for 60 years. It is said that on his deathbed, he asked the angels for more time, saying to his disciples, "I do not think that I have even begin to repent." Read more about him in *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers* (PAT - - - WAR.)

Saturday we commemorate one whose blessing is invoked in the Orthodox wedding service. St. Procopius (7/8), a soldier during Emperor Diocletian's reign, encountered Christ in a conversion experience similar to the Apostle Paul's. The authorities tortured him and threw him in prison. One day twelve women approached his window, told him they were also servants of Christ and were locked up with him. He taught them more about the Church, especially receiving the crown of martyrdom. According to *The Prologue*, this is why he and the God-crowned Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen are mentioned in the marriage service.