

From the Fathers (and others):

Abba Theodore of Scetis said, 'A thought comes to me which troubles me and does not leave me free; but not being able to lead me to act, it simply stops me progressing in virtue; but a vigilant man would cut it off and get up to pray.'

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

If you want to help the church, it is better to try to correct yourself, rather than be looking to correct others. If you manage to correct yourself, one small part of the Church is immediately corrected. Naturally, if everyone did the same, the body of the Church would be in good health. But, today, people concern themselves with anything but themselves. You see, judging others is easy, whereas working on yourself takes effort.

St Paisios the Athonite

The Kingdom of Heaven is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Acquire inward peace, and thousands around you will find their salvation.

St. Seraphim of Sarov

Abba Abraham told of a man of Scetis who was a scribe and did not eat bread. A brother came to beg him to copy a book. The old man whose spirit was engaged in contemplation, wrote, omitting some phrases and with no punctuation. The brother, taking the book and wishing to punctuate it, noticed that words were missing. So he said to the old man, 'Abba, there are some phrases missing.' The old man said to him, 'Go, and practise first that which is written, then come back and I will write the rest.'

Abba Abraham- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Tithing is not just for converts. It is not just for the rich. It is for all of us. It brings us peace, knowing that we have given to God what is rightfully His. It makes our parishes strong by providing the support it needs. It builds up our youth, who see our gratitude to God and are in turn grateful to their parents. Yes, if you really want your children to appreciate what you do for them, try being an example of gratitude.

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

St. John Orthodox Church



~ July 23, 2017 ~
7th Sunday after Pentecost

COMMEMORATIONS



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



June 23: Martyrs Agripinna of Rome, Aristokleos, Eustochios, Demetrian, and Lollias; Venerable Barbaros Pentapolites; translation of the relics of Herman, archbishop of Kazan.

June 24: The Nativity of the Forerunner; New-martyr Panayiotis of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

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.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 23-30

Sunday	Romans	15:1-7	Matthew	9:27-35
Monday	1 Corinthians	9:13-18	Matthew	16:1-6
Tuesday	Galatians	4:22-27	Luke	8:16-21
Wednesday	Galatians	3:23-29; 4:1-5	Mark	5:24-34
Thursday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	John	15:17-27; 16:1-2
Friday	Acts	6:1-7	Matthew	7-10-18
Saturday	Romans	13:1-10	Matthew	12:30-37
Sunday	1 Corinthians	1:10-17	Matthew	14:14-22



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis –Justin Bowles, Lucas Whatley, Tom Ashworth, Allie Helms, Jon Mark and Heather Hetrick, Ian Curry, John Curry, 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 (~\$23,000) 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!

Wednesday Evening at St. John – Due to the priest’s attendance at the Archdiocese Convention in Miami, there will not be any services or meal at the church on Wednesday.

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 will be 5 lay members again this year, giving the council a full complement of seven.

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.

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 – PLEASE HAVE DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY - St. John is participating in the FOCUS Back to School Backpack program this year. We are filling 50 backpacks provided by FOCUS with various school supplies collected by the parish, which we will then, in turn, donate 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, 7/23:	<i>Prophet Ezekiel: Zeke Yarbro</i>
Monday, 7/24:	Dn. Charles <i>St. Christina: Lavinia Dumitrache, Christine McGee, Kristina Romero</i>
Tuesday, 7/25:	Lucy Leopold, Caitlyn Maas, Anna Sanderlin, <i>Olympia, Deaconess of Constantinople: Grace Harvey</i>
Wednesday, 7/26:	<i>Jacob, the Enlightener of the Peoples of Alaska: Jay Knight</i>
Thursday, 7/27:	Grace Harvey, Joe White
Friday, 7/28:	Bethany White
Saturday, 7/29:	Ruby Ortwein

Master Plan Updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – These next few weeks will be HUGE!!! The light fixtures are being completed in the main room. The tile on the floors and the walls of the bathrooms have begun. The brick is here!!! They have even begun some of the work renovating the atrium room upstairs! There is so much going on!!

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 10	Women’s Teaching , 10:00 a.m.

Library Lines

Boris and Gleb, men with strange sounding names, are commemorated on July 24th. They were sons of Prince Vladimir the Great (7/15) who were murdered by their brothers who sought the throne. They belong to a category of saints called Passion-bearers. These saints are not ascetics, hierarchs, martyrs, but innocent men and women, though unwilling to die, renounced violence and humbly submitted to suffering and death with the spirit of Christ. Read more about them in “Princes Boris and Gleb” in *Orthodox America*, issue 76-77, Jan.-Feb. 1988, on p. 19.

The Story of Mary the Mother of God (KID STS PAP) by Dorrie Papademetriou is one of our library’s most beautifully illustrated books for young children. The first half of the short book is devoted to Sts. Anna (repose 7/25) and Joachim. It tells us of their desire for a child and of the early life of the Theotokos. Grown-ups can find much more about her life in *The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos* (REF HAG - - - HOL).

Wednesday, we honor Paraskeva of Rome (7/26). From her childhood, she spent time in prayer and reading the Scriptures. When her parents died, she gave her inheritance to the poor and began a life of evangelism. She suffered many tortures for Christ during campaigns of persecutions. Many were won to Christ after seeing her heal her tormentors and escaping their plans for her death. Once she was cast into a cave inhabited by a huge snake. She made the Sign of the Cross over it, and it died. She was beheaded in 140 A. D. Her icon is among the new ones on our balcony. Read more about her in *The Encyclopedia of the Major Saints and Fathers* (HAG - - - ELE) on p. 73 and in *The Handmaiden*, winter 2008, p. 60.

Thursday (7/27) we honor the Great martyr and Unmercenary Panteleimon. He studied medicine under a famous physician. Soon his skill brought him to the attention of the emperor and to a band of Christians who taught him about Christ. He was baptized and healed all who came to him in the name of Jesus. Since he did not charge the sick for his services, many pagan physicians lost patients to him. Out of jealousy they conspired to tell the emperor that he was healing Christian prisoners. When he cured a paralytic in front of the emperor, he ordered the healed man executed, and he subjected Panteleimon to many tortures. Witnesses to his tortures were converted and finally the saint was beheaded.

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