

From the Fathers (and others):

When you are in the temple, remember that you are in the living presence of the Lord God, that you stand before His face, before His eyes, in the living presence of the Mother of God, of the holy angels, and of the first-born of the Church - that is, our forefathers, the prophets, Apostles, hierarchs, martyrs, reverend Fathers, the righteous, and all the saints. Always have the remembrance and consciousness of this when you are in the temple, and stand with devotion, taking part willingly and with all your heart in the Divine service.

St. John of Kronstadt

The fact is that the more we take flight upward [to God], the more our words are confined to the ideas we are capable of forming; so that now as we plunge into that darkness which is beyond intellect, we shall find ourselves not simply running short of words but actually speechless and unknowing.

St. Dionysius

I think there is no greater labor than that of prayer to God. For every time a man wants to pray, his enemies, the demons, want to prevent him, for they know that it is only by turning him from prayer that they can hinder his journey. Whatever good work a man undertakes, if he perseveres in it, he will attain rest. But prayer is warfare to the last breath.

Abba Agathon-
Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Just as the light of the sun attracts a healthy eye, so through love knowledge of God naturally draws to itself a pure intellect.

St. Maximos the Confessor

St. John Orthodox Church



~ July 31, 2016 ~
6th Sunday after Pentecost

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
(901) 274-4119

www.stjohnmemphis.org

www.orthodoxtupelo.com

V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.
Pastor

Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers
Assistant Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman
Associate Pastor

Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul
Assistant 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

July 31, 2016 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Judy Terry**.

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 31 – August 6 (Wed & Fri. Fast)
Dormition Fast Begins Mon., Aug. 1

Sunday - AXIOS, Fr. John & Fr. Philip!
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Paraklesis, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Barksdale's
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., “Sanctification of Time”
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Paraklesis, 5:30 p.m.
-Parish Meal following
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.
-Great Vespers for Transfiguration, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday -Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration, 9:00 a.m.
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -**Orthros, 8:45 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

DIVINE LITURGY - Transfiguration

Saturday, August 6, 9:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip
READER: Caleb McGee
ALTAR SERVERS: Zach, Eli
COFFEE HOUR:

HOMILY: Fr. Philip
HOLY BREAD: Mindy Williams

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, August 7, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip
READER: Matt Spinolo
HOLY BREAD: Caitlyn Maas
ALTAR SERVERS: Cade, Pavel, James, Alex N.
COFFEE HOUR:

HOMILY: Fr. Philip
USHER: Bill Harter

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

Aug 1, 3, 8, 10(5:30 p.m.), 12– Paraklesis, 6:00 PM unless otherwise noted
Aug 5 – Great Vespers for Transfiguration, 6:00 PM
Aug 6 – Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration, 9:00 AM
Aug 14 – Great Vespers for Dormition, 6:00 PM
Aug 15 – Divine Liturgy for Dormition, 9:00 AM

COMMEMORATIONS

July 31: Righteous Eudokimos of Cappadocia; Righteous Joseph of Arimathea; Germanos, bishop of Auxerre.

Aug. 1: The Procession of the Cross. The seven Maccabean youths, their mother Solomonia and Eleazar their teacher, martyrs; Venerable-martyr Elessa of Kythera.

Aug. 2: The translation of the relics of the Proto-martyr Stephen the Archdeacon; Venerable Photeini; New-martyr Theodore; Blessed Basil the fool-for-Christ, wonder-worker of Moscow.

Aug. 3: Venerable Isaac, Dalmatos and Faustus of the Dalmaton monastery; Venerable Theoklites and Theodora; Salome the myrrh-bearer; Venerable Anthony the Roman, wonder-worker of Novgorod.

Aug. 4: The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus; Martyr Eudokia of Persia.

Aug. 5: Martyr Eusignios of Antioch; New-martyr Habakkuk of Thessalonika.

Aug. 6: The Transfiguration of Christ.

Aug. 7: Martyrs Dometios of Persia and Sozon of Nicomedia; Hieromartyr Narcissos, patriarch of Jerusalem; Venerable Theodosios the New of the Peloponnesos, Nikanor the wonder-worker of Mt. Kalistratos, and David; Venerable Dometios of Philotheou monastery on Athos; uncovering of the relics of Metrophanes, first bishop of Veronezh.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			July 31 – August 7	
Sunday	Romans	12:6-14	Matthew	9:1-8
Monday	Hebrews	11:33-12:2	Matthew	21:33-42
Tuesday	Acts	6:8-15; 7:1-5 7:47-60	Matthew	21:33-42
Wednesday	1 Corinthians	7:12-24	Matthew	14:35-15:11
Thursday	1 Corinthians	7:24-35	Matthew	15:12-21
Friday	1 Peter	1:1-2:10	Matthew	15:29-31
Saturday	2 Peter	1:10-19	Matthew	17:1-9
Sunday	Romans	15:1-7	Matthew	9:27-35



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), Angela Leopold (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, Naomi Young (Chelsea Tabor's grandmother), Anna Grace (Joyce Grossman's granddaughter), Elfrieda Drobashevsky, Maria Bellaflores, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Welcome Bishop ANTOUN and Bishop BASIL! It is always a blessing to have hierarchs visiting and we are doubly blessed to have two with us! Our own Bishop ANTOUN of Miami and Bishop BASIL of Wichita. May God grant them many years!!

Student Blessing – At the end of the liturgy next Sunday, August 7, we will pray the blessing prayers for our students returning to school.

The Dormition Fast begins August 1 - The traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed during the **DORMITION FAST** which lasts from August 1st through 14th (with katalysis for wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays, and for fish, wine and oil on the Transfiguration [August 6th]).

Parish Council recommendations – Today is the last day to turn in your parish council recommendations. 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, Ervin Romero, and Bill Harter**

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 three new members selecting for the coming year, giving a full complement of seven.

Update on Mary Clark – Mary is still at Gallaway Health, and this is good. She is in better physical health, but needs very regular supervision. Her address is Room 119, 435 Old Brownsville Road, Gallaway, TN 38036. Please remember her in your prayers.

Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 28th at Brandon Maas' home. We will be discussing *The Rise of Superman* by Steven Kotler.

Master Plan questions and answers

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – As of last Thursday, we are in receipt of bids from four contractors and updated drawings from our architects. Lord willing, our building committee will meet this coming Wednesday to discuss these items and keep our timeline moving. Our present time line remains unchanged. We hope to have our contractor selected by August 15-31, and final costs on September 15-30. It is possible that work could begin by October 1, but the most probable date is November 1.

Fund raising – One time gifts continue to come in as well as monthly pledges. We urge all those who have made a monthly pledge to begin now if you have not yet started.

COFFEE HOUR -

The coffee hour sign up for 3rd quarter still has *several* openings, including:

Sat., August 6 Sun., August 7 Mon., August 15 Sun., August 21
Mon., August 29 Thurs., Sept 8 Wed., Sept. 14 Sun., Sept. 18

The complete list can be found on the St. John website (Parish – Online Assignments) or on Sign Up Genius, <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4eabac2aa0fb6-coffee2>. Contact our coffee hour coordinator, Anna Pashchinskaya if you have questions or need help signing up. anna.pashchinskaya@fedex.com. Please consider serving your parish in the way.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 7/31: Trent Terry
Joseph of Arimathea: Trent Terry

Monday, 8/1: Sh. Deb Mashburn

Tuesday, 8/2: Dn. James Elliott

Thursday, 8/4: Zoe van Drimmelen, John Sneed, Owen White, Mia Shlweet,
Rana Ibrahim

Friday, 8/5: *St. Nonna: Nancy McGee*

Women of St. John ~ AWSJ

August 11 **Women's Teaching**, 10:00 a.m.
Priscilla Neale's home

September 12 **Book Club**, 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home
Wonder by R. J. Palacio

The AWSJ cordially invites the men & women of St. John to a
Wedding Shower

honoring

Anne Katherine Campbell & Justin van Landingham

Saturday, August 27th following Vespers at Fran Tylavsky's home

See **Claire van Drimmelen** if you would like to contribute to the group gift.
Anne Katherine & Justin are registered at Bed bath and Beyond, Macy's,
and Amazon

LIBRARY LINES - Today is the feast day of St. Joseph of Arimathea (7/31), the noble Joseph of our Paschal hymns. He is mentioned in every Liturgy and his icon is in our nave. Most of us know very little of his life after the Crucifixion. Tradition tells us that he accompanied Sts. Mary Magdalene, Lazarus and Phillip on a missionary journey through Gaul. Phillip sent him north to Britain with some other disciples. He had traveled there many years earlier in connection with his lead and tin business. As they approached what is now Glastonbury, the saint thrust his staff made with the Crown of Thorns into the ground. It took root, and every year the flowering hawthorn blooms at Christmas time. His deep devotion to Christ and the inspiring events on his life have drawn three St. John parishioners to choose him as their patron.

Many times during the Dormition Fast we pray the Paraklesis to the Theotokos. Towards the end, we sing of the "revered icon which is known by the name Directress and which hath been depicted for us by the Apostle Luke the Evangelist." You will find the story behind "The Directress" in Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary (ART ICO KHO).

Monday we commemorate a lesser known feast of the Cross known as the Procession of the Venerable Cross. It is based on a historical event on Constantinople. During August, the Wood of the Cross was carried throughout the streets everyday from the first of August until the Feast of the Dormition for healing and sanctification. The Russian Church also celebrates this day as the baptism of the "Great Prince Vladimir and all Rus."

St. Basil (8/2) was trained as a cobbler. When he was sixteen, he began his calling from God as a fool-for-Christ in Moscow where he went barefoot about the streets in summer and winter. Through actions and speech that appeared foolish to men, he used his gift of clairvoyance to teach and show mercy to others. He predicted a great fire in Moscow in 1547, and even reproached Tsar Ivan the Terrible for being preoccupied during church services with thoughts of building a palace for himself. Fools-for-Christ were ascetics who fought the sin of pride by appearing to be mentally ill and consequently incurring the ridicule of the world. Many of them were stylites. One form of the ascetic Christian life is called foolishness for the sake of Christ. The fool-for-Christ set for himself the task of battling within himself the root of all sin, pride. In order to accomplish this he took on an unusual style of life, appearing as someone bereft of his mental faculties, thus bringing upon himself the ridicule of others. In addition he exposed the evil in the world through metaphorical and symbolic words and actions. He took this ascetic endeavor upon himself in order to humble himself and to also more effectively influence others, since most people respond to the usual ordinary sermon with indifference. The spiritual feat of foolishness for Christ was especially widespread in Russia. --(Excerpted from The Law of God, Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, NY: 1993) from Orthodox Wiki.

Asleep for 200 years! Monday we commemorate seven youths (8/4), friends from childhood, who suffered martyrdom in the third century. Upon being denounced by informants, they confessed their faith before Emperor Decius. He freed them, hoping they would change their minds. Instead they hid in a cave, prayed and prepared for martyrdom. The emperor found them, but before he sealed its entrance, secret Christians placed a plaque in it inscribed with the names of the youths and the story of their deaths. God then caused them to fall into a miraculous sleep. Two hundred years later, a stone cutter happened to open the cave and they awoke, unaware of the passage of time. The faithful rejoiced seeing this event as a sign to the heretics that the bodies of the Faithful would be raised. The Emperor journeyed to Ephesus to talk with the young men and afterwards, they lay down and reposed.