

From the Fathers (and others):

What is the spiritual battle? Well, the soul is a garden divided into two parts. On one half are planted thorny bushes, and on the other half, flowers. We also have a water pump with two taps and two channels. The one guides the water to the thorns and the other to the flowers. I always have the choice to open one or the other tap. I leave the thorns without water and they dry up, I water the flowers and they blossom.

Elder Porphyrios

Do not be irritated either with those who sin or those who offend; do not have a passion for noticing every sin in your neighbor, and for judging him, as we are in the habit of doing. Everyone shall give an answer to God for himself. Everyone has a conscience; everyone hears God's Word, and knows God's will either from books or from conversation with other people. Especially do not look with evil intention upon the sins of your elders, which do not regard you, "to his own master he stands or falls." Correct your own sins, amend your own life.

St John of Kronstadt

In the end times a man will be saved by love, humbleness and kindness. Kindness will open the gates of Heaven; humbleness will lead him into Heave; a man whose heart is filled with love, will see God.

St Gabriel of Georgia

What I see around me would drive me insane, if I did not know that no matter what happens, God will have the last word.

St Paisios the Athonite

The mark of a soul that loves wisdom always gives thanks to God. If you have suffered evil, give thanks and it is changed to good. He has not sinned who suffered the evil but he who has done the evil. Give thanks even in disease, lack of possessions, or false accusations. It is not we who are injured but those who are the authors of them.

St John Chrysostom

Continue along your path. The devil will come with his tempting thoughts and will tug at your sleeve, so as to disorient you. Don't turn to him, don't start a conversation with him, and don't oppose him. In this way the devil will get bored and will leave you alone.

Elder Porphyrios

St. John Orthodox Church



~ August 13, 2017 ~
Leave-taking of the Transfiguration

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers
Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman
Associate Pastor

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

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

August 13, 2017

Leave-taking of the Transfiguration

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Patty Harants**.

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

August 13 - 20 (Mon, Wed, Fri Fast)

- Sunday** -Teen Group (with parents), 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Monday -First Hour 6:45 a.m.
-Great Vespers for Dormition, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday -Divine Liturgy for Dormition, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
-Meal following Paraklesis
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 Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
-Holy Baptism of Joseph Romero
Sunday -**Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

Memorials

August 13th – George Harants – 4 years

Upcoming Baptisms

August 19 Joseph Romero

DIVINE LITURGY

Tuesday, August 15, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip **HOMILY:** Fr. Philip
HOLY BREAD: Ben Arthur
COFFEE HOUR: HELP NEEDED

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, August 20, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Alex **HOMILY:** Fr. Alex
READER: Jack Turner **USHER:** Bill Harter
HOLY BREAD: Harvey family
ALTAR SERVERS: Pavel, Nicholas, Max, Alex
COFFEE HOUR: Sh. Margaret, Help Needed

COMMEMORATIONS

Aug. 13: Maximos the Confessor; Eudokia and Irene (Xenia) the empresses; Venerable Dositheos; repose of Tikhon, bishop of Voronezh and wonder-worker of Zadonsk; uncovering of the relics of Maximos of Moscow, fool-for-Christ.

Aug. 14: Prophet Micah; New-martyr Simeon of Trebizond; translation of the relics of Venerable Theodosios of the Kiev Caves.

Aug. 15: The Dormition of the Theotokos.

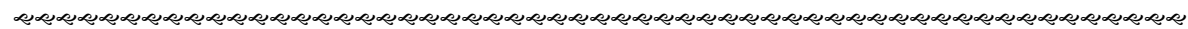
Aug. 16: The commemoration of the icon-not-made-by-hands of our Lord in Edessa. Martyrs Diomedes the physician of Tarsus in Cilicia and Alkiviades; Venerable Gerasimos the New Ascetic of Kephalaria; Timothy, bishop of Epiros; New-martyrs Nikodemos of Meteora and Apostolos (Stamatios) of St. Laurence; the New-martyrs of Megaris.

Aug. 17: Venerable Myron of Kyzikos, Eutychios, Eutychian, and Kassiane; Martyrs Thyrsos, Cyprian and Juliana; Venerable Alypios the iconographer of the Kiev Caves; Theodoretos of Solovky, enlightener of the Lapps.

Aug. 18: Martyrs Floros and Lauros of Illyria; Venerable Sophronios of St. Anne skete on Athos; Venerable Barnabas and Christopher of Mt. Mela; new-martyr Demetrios; Venerable Arsenios the New of Paros; repose of Venerable John of Rila.

Aug. 19: Martyr Andrew the General (“Stratelates”); Venerable Theophanes of Docheiariou monastery on Athos.

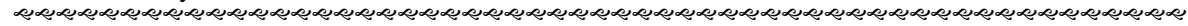
Aug. 20: Prophet Samuel; Martyrs Heliodoros of Persia and Photeini of Blachernae.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 13-20

Sunday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	Matthew	17:14-23
Monday	2 Corinthian	2:3-15	Matthew	23:13-22
Tuesday	Philippians	2:5-11	Luke	10:38-42, 11:27-28
Wednesday	1 Timothy	3:13-16; 4:1-5	Luke	9:51-57, 10:22-24, 13:22
Thursday	2 Corinthians	4:1-12	Matthew	24:13-28
Friday	2 Corinthians	4:13-18	Matthew	24:27-33, 42-51
Saturday	1 Corinthians	1:3-9	Matthew	19:3-12
Sunday	1 Corinthians	9:2-12	Matthew	18:23-35



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

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.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Student Blessing –Fr. Philip will pray the blessing prayers for our students returning to school at the end of the liturgy today.

Parent-Teen Group Backyard Bash – On Sunday August 13th at 5 P.M. we will start the year off with a parent-teen backyard bash where we will play backyard games together, eat pizza, and discuss teen group for the upcoming year.

St John Job Fair – If you’ve ever wondered what you can do to help the Church, you will have an opportunity to find out on Sundays, September 3 and 10. Each of the many volunteer coordinators will be ready to share with you what they do and how you can be involved. We would love for you to sign up for one of our many activities!

Metropolitan Visit – Due to a schedule conflict, His Eminence needed to change the dates of his visit. Metropolitan JOSEPH will be visiting our community November 17-19. If you would like to help with the planning of this important event, please see Mrs. Reem Mansour or Mrs. Trish Ratliff.

Church School – Church school for the new year will begin on September 10 at 9:00 a.m. Please see the insert for which class your child(ren) will be attending and be on the lookout for emails from the teachers or catechists. Depending on construction and renovation, middle schoolers and high schoolers may not be in their permanent classrooms on the 10th.

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.

Women’s Bible Study – *Change of date* – Please note that the date for our study has been changed to August 24th to accommodate Fr. Philip’s travel schedule. We will still meet at Fr. Philip and Kh. Kathryn’s home that night beginning with social time at 6:30 p.m. and discussion at 7:00 p.m.

Sons of Thunder Men’s Book Club - Our next meeting is planned for Sun., Aug 27 at 6:30p.m. We will meet at the church to discuss the book 'Dispatches from Pluto' by Richard Grant.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Monday, 8/14: Lydia Williams
Tuesday, 8/15: David White, Mickey Hodges
Wednesday, 8/16: Marjo Labonte
Thursday, 8/17: Mark Ibrahim, Nidal Salloum
Friday, 8/18: Ethel Smith
Saturday, 8/19: Anne Katherine Vanlandingham
Anniversary: Joel & Sarah Finley

Master Plan Updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – They have done a lot of work!!! The cabinets and countertops have been installed in the kitchen, the 3rd floor renovations are complete, the tile work in the bathrooms and much of the painting is finished!! The bricks continue to be behind, but the crews have been doing everything else that is possible. As they finish the new building and move into the old one for renovations, we will experience some upheaval. Thank you for your patience and your continued prayers!!

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

***August 24 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 28 AWSJ Book Club will be discussing *The Fifth Gospel* by Ian Caldwell

September 7 Women’s Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home

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

Library Lines

Have you ever wondered how people are designated 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.”

If you are fascinated with icons, this is your month! All during the Dormition Fast, we have looked to the Theotokos as our model for our own deaths. During the month of August, we commemorate many icons of her. Read more about them in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary* (ART ICO KHO).

Today (8/13) we remember the icon of the “Seven Arrows”. It was lying face-down in a bell tower and mistaken for a floor board. A peasant found it when he had a vision before it of being healed.

Monday (8/14) we venerate the icon of the Theotokos, “the Converser.” It shows her and St. Nicholas the Wonderworker talking with George, the sacristan.

Tuesday (8/15) is the feast day of the Icon of the Mother of God, “the Enlightener of Minds.” This unusual icon shows the Theotokos and the Christ Child enveloped in priest’s phelonion, (cape). They are surrounded by angels and buildings are at the bottom. It tells us of the power of her intercessions to God for our and our children’s wisdom.

Wednesday, we commemorate the Icon-not-made-by-hands of our Lord (8/16). Tradition says that Christ himself made this icon as answer to a request for healing from leprosy by a ruler of Edessa. The image was taken to him by the Apostle Thaddeus.

Thursday (8/17) we commemorate the icon of the Theotokos of the Kiev Caves. The Mother of God gave the icon to three architects and sent them to Sts. Anthony and Theodosius of the Caves and directed them to select a site on which to build a church for her. This icon is associated with many healings and the defense of Russia.

Thursday also, we commemorate an early Russian iconographer, St. Alypius (8/17). Some of his icons were glorified by miracles, and tradition says when he was ill, an angel painted an icon of the Dormition for him. It’s known as the Sven Icon commemorated also on this date.

Friday, we honor the repose of St. John of Rila (8/18). His childhood was spent in Bulgaria as a cowherd. He was tonsured as a youth and lived in strict asceticism, praying, weeping and eating grass. The ill and demon-possessed began to seek him out. Monks flocked to him and built a church over a cave where he lived.