

From the Fathers (and others):

The disciples of Anthony the Great once asked him how he could see the Lord God. He answered them in the following manner: "In the early morning, when I come out of my mud hut into the desert, I see the sun rise, I hear the birds sing, a quiet breeze blows on my face – and my heart sees the Lord and sings for joy."

"God has distributed gifts and blessings in such a way that every person has a particular place and purpose within a society--and thus everyone is equally necessary for a society to function well. So, do not resent the fact that someone is more intelligent or stronger than you are. Instead, give thanks for their intelligence and strength, from which you benefit. And then ask yourself, 'What is my gift, and thence what is my place in society?' When you have answered this question, and you act according to your answer, all contempt and all resentment will melt away."

-St. John Chrysostom +

"Resolve to treat things in your possession as belonging to others. After all, they bring pleasure for only a little while, then fade away and disappear, but afterwards a strict accounting of their disbursement will be demanded of you."

-St. Basil the Great

"Just as a man whose head is underwater cannot inhale pure air, so a man whose thoughts are plunged into the cares of this world cannot absorb the sensation of the world to come."

-St Isaac the Syrian

"Do not measure your loss by itself; if you do, it will seem intolerable; but if you will take all human affairs into account you will find that some comfort is to be derived from them."

-St. Basil the Great

St. John Orthodox Church



~ August 14, 2016 ~
Forefeast of the Dormition of the
Most Holy Theotokos

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

www.stjohnmemphis.org

www.orthodoxtupelo.com

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 14, 2016

Forefeast for the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Trish Ratliff**.

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 14 - 21 (Fast Sun., Wed. & Fri.)

- Sunday** -Teen Parent meeting, coffee hour
-Great Vespers for Dormition, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday** -Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos, 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Barksdale's
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., "Mary, the Mother of God"
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 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.
- Paraklesis, 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Parish Workday, 3:00 until
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -Orthros, 8:45 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY

Monday, August 15, 9:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Alex
HOLY BREAD:	Lavinia Dumitrache	READER:	Caleb McGee
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Eli		
COFFEE HOUR:	Caitlin Romero, Trish Ratliff		

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, August 21, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Basil	HOMILY:	Fr. Basil
READER:	John Cameron	USHER:	Dan O'Brien
HOLY BREAD:	Margaret McKelroy		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Cade, Pavel, James, Alex N.		
COFFEE HOUR:			

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

Aug. 21: Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy; Martyrs Bassa, Theognios, Agapios, and Pistos of Edessa; Venerable Abraham of Smolensk and his disciple, Venerable Ephraim.



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.

Men’s Dinner – It is time for our quarterly men’s dinner! We will meet at Central BBQ on Summer at 6:30 pm on Thursday, August **25th**. Come and join us for great food and fellowship.

Wednesday Teaching – We will return to our Wednesday night teachings on August 24. Fr. Philip will lead a series on the Orthodox understanding of death and dying.

AWSJ Secret Sisters - Our increasingly popular Secret Sisters is beginning again this fall and will run from September (after Labor Day) through October. If you are college-age or above and want to join in the fun, please fill out the questionnaire downstairs on the piano and return it (filled out completely....the more info, the more fun) to Sh. Corinne Elliott or Pam Bowick *by August 28th*. You may leave it in her mailbox in the church office if you'd like or in the parish hall. See Corinne with any questions.

Church Workday! – On Saturday, August 20 starting at 3 pm, we will be moving items from the upstairs classrooms and moving our CGS materials from the duplex to the new classrooms. Thank you for your help!

CGS Parent Meeting – On Sunday, August 28 following the Divine Liturgy, there will be a meeting for parents of children ages 3-9 in the Level 1 Atrium located on the 3rd floor. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the Catechism program for our youngest students.

Teen Parent Meeting – To begin our new year of teen group, there will be a teen parent informational meeting following the Divine Liturgy today.

Moving Help – After dinner on Wednesday, August 17, Fr. Alex and Kh. Amanda will be moving their large items to their new home. Any help with moving would be greatly appreciated!

Coffee Hour - The coffee hour sign up for 3rd quarter still has *several* openings, including:
Sun., Aug. 21 Mon., Aug. 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>. Please consider serving your parish in the way.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			August 14 - 21	
Sunday	1 Corinthians	1:10-17	Matthew	14:14-22
Monday	Philippians	2:5-11	Luke	10:38-42; 11:27-28
Tuesday	1 Timothy	3:13-4:5	Luke	9:51-57; 10:22-24; 13:22
Wednesday	1 Corinthians	13:4-14:5	Matthew	20:1-16
Thursday	1 Corinthians	14:6-19	Matthew	20:17-28
Friday	1 Corinthians	14:26-40	Matthew	21:12-14, 17-20
Saturday	Romans	14:6-9	Matthew	15:32-39
Sunday	1 Corinthians	3:9-17	Matthew	14:22-34



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), Elfreida Drobashvsky, Maria Bellaflores, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Master Plan questions and answers

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – We hope to be interviewing our potential contractors this week.

Naming the Building – A suggestion was made to name the new building after a saint. Because of his special ties to our Archdiocese as well as the United States and many different Orthodox groups, St. Raphael of Brooklyn was suggested as a fitting patron. If you have additional thoughts on the naming of the building, please speak with Fr. Philip or anyone from the building committee.

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.

If you have not made a pledge, you can still do so. We are over 60% participation. Can we get to 70%? Every dollar helps.

Women of St. John ~ AWSJ

AWSJ Secret Sisters - Our increasingly popular Secret Sisters is beginning again this fall and will run from September (after Labor Day) through October. If you are college-age or above and want to join in the fun, please fill out the questionnaire downstairs on the piano and return it (filled out completely....the more info, the more fun) to Sh. Corinne Elliott or Pam Bowick *by August 28th*. You may leave it in her mailbox in the church office if you'd like or in the parish hall. See Corinne with any questions.

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| Sept. 8 | AWSJ Fall Kick Off Appetizer Potluck , Caitlin Romero's home |
| Sept. 12 | Book Club , 7:00 p.m., <i>Wonder</i> by R. J. Palacio |
| Sept. 15 | Women's Teaching , 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home |
| Sept. 18 | AWSJ Business meeting during coffee hour |

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

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

LIBRARY LINES -

During the month of August, we commemorate many icons of the Theotokos. Read about them in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary* (ART ICO KHO). Today (8/14) we venerate the icon of the Theotokos, "the Converser." It shows her and St. Nicholas the Wonderworker talking with George, the sacristan.

Monday (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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday (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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

The Prophet Samuel's life (8/20) has many parallels to that of the Theotokos. Like her, he was born from a "barren" woman. His mother, Hannah, prayed fervently for children, and God answered her request. She took Samuel to live in the temple when he was weaned. Her prayer of thanksgiving to God is recorded in I Samuel 2:1-10. The next chapter shows us the beautiful story of God calling the young child. He thought Eli, the high priest, was calling him. This happened three times, and Eli realized that the Lord was calling the child. He told Samuel to reply, "Speak Lord, for your servant listens." Samuel went on to be a great prophet, and anointed Saul and David as king of Israel.

PERIODICALLY SPEAKING

The **bad** news is that *The Evangelist*, our parish newsletter, has ceased publication. The **good** news is that it's still around - in St. John Library.

Curious about how the Pantocrator got up on the ceiling in the nave? Want to see a picture of a younger Fr. John without a beard? Do you know what happened to St. John's first bell? The curious and observant among us may have wondered about the chalice cover in a glass case beneath the Pentecost icon. It was used in pre-revolutionary Russia by the bishop who was the confessor to Czar Nicholas II. Find out how it got to St. John in *The Evangelist*, January 1993 issue, p. 1. Back copies of our newsletter are on the top shelf of the periodical section. Look in the alphabetical, subject index of periodical for specific articles on hundreds of topics.