

**From the Fathers (and others):**

When I became a monk, I felt better. Even my health improved. Although previously I had been sickly, afterwards I became healthier, with the ability to bear labors with psychical courage. Above all, however, I felt eternal. The Church is a mystery. Whoever enter the Church doesn't die, he is saved, is eternal. Thus, I always feel eternal, as though immortal. Having become a monk, I believe that death does not exist. This thought captivates me.

Elder Porphyrios

Christ is not a perfect philosopher and a good lawgiver. He is not a moralizer and the leader of a religion, even the most perfect one. Rather, He is the champion over death, the devil and sin. He did not come simply to change the external conditions of man's life. He came to make man holy, to transfigure him, to deify him, to make him a son of God by grace. He is the Son of God by nature; we must become children of God by grace.

Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos

The primary lesson for life must be implanted in the soul from the earliest age. The primary lesson for children is to know the eternal God, the One who gives everlasting life.

St Clement of Alexandria

Pride more than anything else, deprives people of both their good deeds and help from God. Where there is no light, there is darkness. Where there is no humility, pride takes its place.

St Macarius of Optina

The words of the Saints are words of God and not of men. Let him put them in his heart and keep them securely, since God's words are words of life and he who has them within himself and keeps them has eternal life.

St Symeon the New Theologian

I have no taste for the food that perishes, nor for the pleasures of this life. I want the Bread of God which is the Flesh of Christ, who was the seed of David; and for drink I desire His Blood which is love that cannot be destroyed.

St Ignatius of Antioch

---

# St. John Orthodox Church

---



---

*~ August 20, 2017 ~  
Sunday after Dormition*



**COMMEMORATIONS**

**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.

**Aug. 22:** Martyr Agathonikos of Nicomedia and those with him.

**Aug. 23:** Martyr Loupos; Hieromartyr Irenaios, bishop of Lyons; Venerable Nicholas and Dionysios of Olympos.

**Aug. 24:** Hieromartyr Eutychos, disciple of John the Theologian; New-hieromartyr Cosmas Aitolos, equal-to-the-Apostles and evangelizer of southern Albania; Dionysios the wonder-worker, bishop of Zakynthos; translation of the relics of Peter the wonder-worker, metropolitan of Moscow.

**Aug. 25:** Apostles Titos of the Seventy and Bartholomew.

**Aug. 26:** Martyrs Adrian and Natalia of Nicomedia; Venerable Joasaph; Venerable Adrian of Ondrutsov.

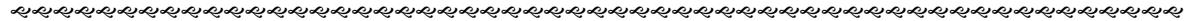
**Aug. 27:** Venerable Pimen the Great and Osios; Martyr Anthusa; Newly-revealed Martyr Phanourios of Rhodes; Caesarios, bishop of Arles; Venerable-confessor Hosios, bishop of Cordoba.



**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**August 20-27**

Sunday	1 Corinthians	9:2-12	Matthew	18:23-35
Monday	2 Corinthians	5:10-15	Mark	3:13-21
Tuesday	2 Corinthians	5:15-21	Mark	1:16-22
Wednesday	Philippians	2:5-11	Luke	10:38-42, 11:27-28
Thursday	2 Corinthians	7:1-10	Mark	1:29-35
Friday	Titus	1:1-5; 2:15; 3:1-2, 12-15	Matthew	5:14-19
Saturday	Hebrews	6:9-12	Matthew	20:29-34
Sunday	1 Corinthians	15:1-11	Matthew	9:16-26



**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**



**Teaching the Tones - Chanting Workshop** - This Fall, St. John will be offering an opportunity to learn Byzantine Chant. We will explore and learn the melodies of each tone while also learning and chanting the many hymns found in our services. Throughout the process we will gain a better understanding of how the services are put together, the church feast day cycle, and where our hymnography comes from. Don’t miss this opportunity to better understand and participate in the worship of our church. Please come to our meeting in the Library after Divine Liturgy on Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> for more information.

**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 10<sup>th</sup>.

**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Master Plan Updates

**Progress on the St Raphael Hall** – We are literally only weeks away from being able to fully enjoy the new hall!! The painters are working on finishing up the paint and the brick is finally being installed. With the interior finishes coming along, you will begin to see more and more work being done in our current building, especially near where the two buildings connect. Please, be mindful of the construction and continue to keep the work in your 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.

---

The AWSJ cordially invites  
women of St. John to a  
**Bridal Shower**

*honoring*

**Sarah Koplin**

Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

At the home of Kh. Kathryn Rogers

See Sarah Finley if you would like to contribute to the group gift.

---

## **Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays**

**Monday, 8/22:** Luna Sumner  
**Tuesday, 8/23:** Fr. Don, Anne Calcote, Jennifer Stanek  
Anniversary: Fadi & Rana Ibrahim  
**Wednesday, 8/24:** Elijah Brackey  
**Thursday, 8/25:** Aaron White, Crystal Eastman  
**Friday, 8/26:** Anniversary: Gary & Cindy Karnaghon  
**Saturday, 8/27:** Brandon Maas  
Anniversary: Billy & Marjo Labonte

## **Library Lines**

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.

Many times we hear of The Seventy. A few of them are more familiar to us than some of the Twelve. Thaddeus (8/21), not to be confused with St. Jude who was one of the Twelve, heard the preaching of St. John the Baptist. He was baptized by him and then became a follower of Jesus. After the Ascension, he preached the Gospel in Edessa and Beirut. Some sources say he died peacefully, and others reported his torture and martyrdom in 50 A.D. Find out more about him in *Orthodox Saints*, volume 4, January-December, p. 115.

St. Titus (8/25), another one of the Seventy, was a native of Crete. After traveling to Jerusalem, he listened to Christ's teachings and witnessed the Crucifixion. He later became a disciple of St. Paul and accompanied him on his missionary journeys. Read more about him in *Orthodox Saints*, volume 3, p. 141, in *Cretan Saints* (HAG - - - TIT) p.99 and in *Christ In His Saints* (HAG - - - REA) p. 288.

## **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