

From the Fathers (and others):

The beginning of evil is heedlessness.

Abba Poemen- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Suffering is good not only for Christians but for everybody. Because if you do not suffer you do not understand anything. Suffering is a good experience.

Fr Roman Braga

What can politicians do for you? They are confused by their psychical passions. When a person is unable to help himself, how can he help others? We are also to blame for this situation. If we were Christians, we would be able to send to parliament, not a Christian political party of course, but Christian politicians, and these things would be different.

Elder Porphyrios

... the saints are the instruments of the Holy Spirit, having received the same energy as He has. As certain proof of what I say, one might cite the charisms of healing, the working of miracles, foreknowledge, the irrefutable wisdom which the Lord called 'the Spirit of your Father' (Mt. 10:20), and also the sanctifying bestowal of the Spirit which those sanctified with these gifts receive from and through them. Thus God said to Moses, 'I shall take the spirit which is on you and put it on them' (Num. 11:17); similarly, 'when Paul laid his hands' on the twelve Ephesians, 'the Holy Spirit came upon them', and at once 'they spoke in tongues and prophesied' (Acts 19:6).

St. Gregory Palamas

Provide yourself with such work for your hands as can be done, if possible, both during the day and at night, so that you are not a burden to anyone, and indeed can give to others, as St. Paul the Apostle advises (cf. I Thess. 2:9; Eph. 4:28). In this manner you will overcome the demon of listlessness and drive away all the desires suggested by the enemy; for the demon of listlessness takes advantage of idleness. 'Every idle man is full of desires' (Prov. 13:4 LXX).

Evagrius the Solitary

"Keep from prying into other people's affairs, for such prying gives occasion for slander, judgment, and other grievous sins. Why do you need to be concerned about others? Know and examine your own self."

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

When the Lord renders to each his due reward, He does not consider the amount given but the amount left.

Blessed Theophylact

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ August 27, 2017 ~
12th Sunday after Pentecost*

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

Aug. 28: Venerable Moses of Ethiopia; Martyrs Diomedes, Damon and Laurence; Martyr Susanna of Georgia; uncovering of the relics of Venerable Job of Pochaev.

Aug. 29: The Beheading of the Forerunner. Venerable Theodora of Thessalonica, Theopistis and Joseph the Sanctified of Samaka.

Aug. 30: Alexander, Paul the New, and John, Patriarchs of Constantinople; Martyrs Phantinos of Calabria and Januarius; Repose of Venerable Alexander of Svir; translation of the relics of Alexander Nevsky, prince of Novgorod; Cyril and Makarios, patriarchs of Serbia.

Aug. 31: The commemoration of the placing of the Belt of the Theotokos in the Church of the Virgin in Halkoprateia-Constantinople.

Sept. 1: The beginning of the Indiction or the ecclesiastical New Year. Forty Virgin-martyrs and Ammon the deacon; Venerable Simeon the Stylite and his mother Martha; Venerable Euanthia; Righteous Joshua, son of Nun; Meletios the New of Greece; Venerable Nicholas of Crete; New-martyr Angelis of Constantinople.

Sept. 2: Martyr Mamas and his parents, Martyrs Theodotos and Rufina; John the Faster, patriarch of Constantinople.

Sept. 3: Hieromartyr Anthimos of Nicomedia; Martyr Chariton; New-martyr Polydoros of Cyprus; Venerable Theoktistos, fellow-faster with Euthymios the Great; Phoebe the deaconess; uncovering of the relics of Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-worker; Ionikios I, patriarch of Serbia.



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 27th for more information.

Contact Information – If you have not received an email from Fr. Philip or the church in the past week, please contact the office to be sure we have your correct email address. We are beginning to use Constant Contact for our email communication and we want to be certain that all those who want to receive information from the church are doing so. There are several people that we do not have email addresses for!

St John Volunteer 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!

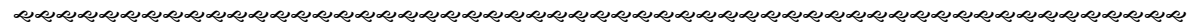
30th Anniversary Celebration and Metropolitan Visit – Our celebration is just a couple of short months away, November 18-19. If you would like to help with the planning of this important event, please see Mrs. Reem Mansour or Mrs. Trish Ratliff.

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. Contact the office if you do not see your child's name on the list. Depending on construction and renovation, middle schoolers and high schoolers may not be in their permanent classrooms on the 10th.

NEW Level 1 Atrium Parents – please check your emails or the St. John website in order to sign up for orientation on September 3 or 6. It is very important for each child who has not previously been in an atrium to be introduced to our space *before* the first official day. Each tour should only last 15 minutes. Thank you for helping us begin the year smoothly!

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. Please bring snacks or drinks to share.

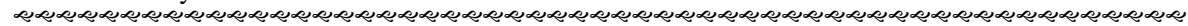
Dinner Clubs - For several years, many people have been participating in our dinner clubs. Dinner clubs are groups of 6-8 St. John people who meet together for a meal once every 2-3 months for a year. **The focus is on fellowship, not food.** This is another great way to meet and get to know more people and develop a sense of community. Please sign up in the parish hall by September 24. You may contact Margaret McKelroy with any questions.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 27 – September 3

Sunday	1 Corinthians	15:1-11	Matthew	9:16-26
Monday	2 Corinthians	8:7-15	Mark	3:6-12
Tuesday	Acts	13:25-33	Mark	6:14-30
Wednesday	2 Corinthians	9:12-15; 10:1-7	Mark	3:20-27
Thursday	Hebrews	9:1-7	Luke	10:38-42, 11:27-28
Friday	1 Timothy	2:1-7	Luke	4:16-22
Saturday	1 Corinthians	2:6-9	Matthew	22:15-22
Sunday	1 Corinthians	16:13-24	Matthew	21:33-42



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), 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.

Master Plan Updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – This week was an incredible week of progress!! The bricks are coming along nicely, the floors were polished and stained, work continued in the connecting areas, and even sinks were installed in the kitchen! What a blessing!! Each week is a week closer to the completion of our project. Continue to pray that everything will come together smoothly!

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.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 8/27:	Brandon Maas Anniversary: Billy & Marjo Labone
Monday, 8/28:	<i>Moses the Black: Tekla Haymanot, Nate Powell, Buddy Lyons</i>
Tuesday, 8/29:	Elian Harants <i>John the Forerunner: Fr. Don, John McGee, Jake Ratliff</i>
Wednesday, 8/30:	<i>St. Alexander: Fr. Alex, Alexandru New, Jack Turner, Alex Klimkowski, Aleksandra Klimkowski</i>
Thursday, 9/1:	Anna Pashchinskaya, Ellie Lyons
Saturday, 9/3:	John McGee, Violet Hight

Library Lines

The last week of our liturgical year honors St. Phanourios (8/27), one to whom we pray when we have lost things. This sounds a bit glib or even frivolous to us, but when we dig deeper, we find a more profound reason for this tradition. He suffered many tortures for Christ's sake, and the finding of his icon was a miraculous story. Read the account of his life in St. John Library and see why his mother may be the most prayed-for relative of any saint.

Right before and after the Dormition of the Theotokos, we commemorate two holy women whose lives were intertwined with hers. The repose of her mother, St. Anna, was July 25, and the commemoration of St. Anna the Prophetess is August 28. She was widowed after seven years and then lived a life of prayer and fasting in the temple. At age 84 she was blessed to see the Theotokos and her infant Son being presented there and received into St. Simeon's hands. St. Luke records that she "gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem."

On the last day of the liturgical year we commemorate two well-known saints and a miracle from a relic of the Theotokos. Her sash which had been given to the Apostle Thomas, and was in Jerusalem in the late ninth century. The empress Zoe, wife of Leo the Wise, had a vision that she would be cured of an illness if the sash was placed upon her. The patriarch found the belt unmarked by time when he opened its container. He placed it on her and she was healed instantly.

St. Aidan (8/31), a popular Celtic saint, was born in the seventh century. He converted King Oswald of North Umbria and his people to the Faith, and the king gave him the island of Lindisfarne where he founded a monastery. The Venerable Bede in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (HIS BED) commended St. Aidan as an example to other priests and bishops for his humility and piety. The saint developed warm friendships with Oswald and his successor, King Oswin. When St. Aidan died peacefully in a local church, a young St. Cuthbert saw a vision of angels taking St. Aidan's soul to heaven in a fiery sphere.

St. Cyprian of Carthage (8/31) spent his youth in extravagant living. However, his soul was unsatisfied until he read of Tertullian's writings on Christianity. He became a catechumen at age 46 and was baptized, then ordained to the priesthood. The focus of his ministry was the welfare of the Church. He went into hiding during the persecution of Emperor Decius so he could continue to strengthen the faith and courage of the faithful. Many people denied Christ under severe torture. A great disagreement arose over their re-admittance. Cyprian ruled that they could be restored only after an examination of the circumstances and then receive a penance and permission of the bishop. St. Cyprian was a prolific writer in which he spoke of the unity of the Church and Christian love. He was martyred in 258.

Friday is the beginning of the Liturgical New Year! The Indiction is a feast day and even has its own icon. The church calendar is so important that there are Old Calendarists and New Calendarists who, sadly, cannot agree on which one to use. Actually, the liturgical year is a concept that is much deeper than that of a device to mark time. Read about the significance of the church year in *The Year of Grace of the Lord* (CAT CAL MON) written by a monk of the Eastern Church. See also *A Companion to the Greek Orthodox Church* (CAT GEN LIT), *The Orthodox Church Calendar* (CAT CAL PHO), *Victories of Orthodoxy* (CAT GEN CAV), *The Calendar Question* (CAT CAL SAK) and *The Church Year* (CAT CAL SCH) from the *Celebration of Faith* series for an explanation of the history and development of our calendar.

We also begin the year by commemorating Moses the God-seer (9/4) and an Old Testament action-hero, Joshua (9/1). God enabled Joshua to stop the Jordan River, win a victory by halting the sun, and smash the walls of Jericho by carrying the Ark of the Covenant around them for seven days. As Moses's successor, he ruled Israel for twenty-five years and divided the Promised Land among the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

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