

From the Fathers (and others):

Our love in Christ must reach all places, even to the hippies in Crete. I very much wanted to go there, not to preach to them, or to condemn them, but to live with them, without sin of course, and leave the love of Christ to speak of itself, which transfigures life.

Elder Porphyrios

Christ is our Friend, our Brother; He is whatever is beautiful and good. He is everything. In Christ there is no gloom, melancholy or introversion, whereas man suffers from various temptations and situations which make him suffer. Christ is joy, life, light, the true light, which makes man glad, makes him fly, makes him see all things, see all people, suffer for all people, and want all people to be with him, close to him.

Elder Porphyrios

They're silent out of indifference... In these difficult days each must do what's in their power. And leave what's out of their power to the will of God. In this way our conscience will be clear.

St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

Abba John said to his brother, 'Even if we are entirely despised in the eyes of men, let us rejoice that we are honored in the sight of God.'

Abba John the Dwarf- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

If we don't resist, then our ancestors will arise from their graves. They suffered so much for the Fatherland, and we? What are we doing for it?.. If Christians don't begin to witness their faith, to resist evil, then the destroyers will become even more insolent. But today's Christians are no warriors. If the Church keeps silent, to avoid conflict with the government, if the Metropolitans are silent, if the monks hold their peace, then who will speak up?

St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

There is an electric generator and in the room is a lamp. If, however, we don't flip the switch, we will remain in darkness. Similarly, there is Christ and there is the soul. If, however, we don't flip the switch of prayer, our soul will not see the light of Christ and will remain in the darkness of the devil.

Elder Porphyrios

I am not afraid of hell and I do not think about Paradise. I only ask God to have mercy on the entire world as well as on me.

Elder Porphyrios

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ August 6, 2017 ~
Transfiguration*

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

Aug. 8: Emilianos the Confessor, archbishop of Kyzikos; Myron, archbishop of Crete; Venerable Gregory of Sinai; New-martyrs Anastasios and Triandaphylos of Thessaly; translation of the relics of Venerable Zosimas and Savvatos of Solovskiy.

Aug. 9: Apostle Matthias; translation of the relics of Venerable Herman of Alaska, wonder-worker of America.

Aug. 10: Martyr and Archdeacon Laurence of Rome; Hieromartyr Sixtus, bishop of Rome.

Aug. 11: Martyr and Archdeacon Euplos of Catania; Niphon, patriarch of Constantinople; commemoration of the miracle of Spyridon the wonder-worker of Kerkyra; New-martyrs Anastasios and Demetrios.

Aug. 12: Martyrs Photios and Anikyotos of Nicomedia.

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.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 6 - 13

Sunday	2 Peter	1:10-19	Matthew	17:1-9
Monday	1 Corinthians	15:12-19	Mark	9:2-9
Tuesday	1 Corinthians	15:29-38	Matthew	21:23-27
Wednesday	Acts	1:12-17, 21-26	Matthew	21:28-32
Thursday	2 Corinthians	1:1-7	Matthew	21:43-46
Friday	2 Corinthians	1:12-20	Matthew	22:23-33
Saturday	Romans	15:30-33	Matthew	17:24-27, 18:1-4
Sunday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	Matthew	17:14-23



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



Uganda Children’s Fund Presentation – Today during coffee hour, we will welcome Peter and Sharon Georges, founders of the St. Nicholas Uganda Children’s Fund. They will give us a brief presentation about their mission and ways in which we can support them. More information can be found on the insert or on the bulletin board downstairs.

Student Blessing – At the end of the liturgy Sunday, August 13, we will pray the blessing prayers for our students returning to school.

College Student Sendoff Party - Hey Young Adults, we are going to start off our year with a **College Student Sendoff Party on Saturday August 12th**. Join us for Great Vespers at 6:00 followed by a night full of food, games, and fellowship as we honor and support our college students from St John. See you there!!!

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, discuss teen group for the upcoming year, and pack backpacks with supplies for Snowden Elementary School.

Parish Council recommendations – This is the last week to recommend new members for the parish council. 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, Christine McGee, Anne Dugan, and Dan O’Brien.**

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.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Aug 7, 9, 11– Paraklesis, note times on calendar
Aug 14 – Great Vespers for Dormition, 6:00 PM
Aug 15 – Divine Liturgy for Dormition, 9:00 AM

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Monday, 8/7: Anniversary: Dn. Tim & Sh. Deb; Charlie & Meribeth Harvey
Tuesday, 8/8: Bill Stanek
Wednesday, 8/9: Pavel Harvey
Thursday, 8/10: Ashley Powell

Master Plan Updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – The crews have been busy! The elevator is almost functional, the cabinets have arrived and should be installed soon, the tile flooring in the bathroom is complete and the stonework continues to progress. We are coming to the end of this great project and many prayers are needed for a profitable conclusion to the project. May God continue to bless the work!

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 10 **Women’s Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., Joyce Bittle’s home, 5665 Dunwoody Ave., Memphis
***August 17** **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

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

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).

Wednesday is the commemoration of the translation of the relics and canonization of St. Herman (8/9) of Alaska. He was born into a family of merchants and began the monastic life at age 16. In 1794 he arrived in Kodiak, Alaska and in the early 1800s he established a monastery on Spruce Island which he called New Valaam. He lived a hard and simple life, serving the Aleuts with a selfless love. Children will enjoy the colorful pictures when they read about him in *North Star, St. Herman of Alaska* (KID STS HER), *Saint Herman of Alaska* (KID STS HER), and *Journey Across North America* (KID STS GID). Adults will also find spiritual food in *The Little Russian Philokalia*, vol. 3, which is a collection of the saint’s wisdom. Also, take a look at “Holy Father Herman” in *Life Transfigured*, Nativity 1998, p. 10, at “Orthodox Missions: Lessons from the Past” in *Orthodox America*, Nov-Dec 1993, p. 5, and at *Herman, a Wilderness Saint* (HAG HER KOR).

Six more times this week and next, we commemorate the translation or uncovering of the relics of saints. We honor this event for Sts. Metrophanes, Zosomos and Sabbatius of Solovki, Maximus the Confessor, Maximus of Moscow, and Tikhon of Zadonsk. So, what’s so important about it? *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (HIS CRO) donates a page to the practice of honoring relics. Interestingly enough, it is a wide spread event, even practiced in Buddhism and is “based on the natural instinct of men to treat with reverence what is left of the dead they loved.” A more readable explanation is given in *The Pearl* (CAT GEN WHE). Chapter VI gives us answers to questions frequently asked by Protestants, or former ones like most of us. His concise answer concerning relics begins on page 139. Kallistos Ware connects this practice with the theology of the body in *The Orthodox Church* (CAT GEN WAR). See chapter 11. See also *Holy Relics* by T. L. Frazier (CAT GEN FRA)

St. Matthias (8/9) is sometimes thought of as an extra apostle, a last-minute fill-in. We remember that he was chosen “by lot” so he may seem like one who was chosen by chance. But, we know that there are no coincidences in the Kingdom of God. Unlike many of the Twelve who were uneducated, common men, St. Matthias studied under the hand of holy Symeon, the God-receiver. Read more about him in *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR).