

### From the Fathers (and others):

Today people want to be loved and for this reason they are unsuccessful. The correct way is to not be interested in whether or not people love you, but whether or not you love Christ and people. This is the only way that the should is fulfilled.

Elder Porphyrios

Speak well of those who speak evil of you. Pay good for evil. Pray for those who cause you various offenses, wrongs, temptations, persecutions. Whatever you do, on no account condemn anyone; do not even try to judge whether a person is good or bad, but keep your eyes on that one evil person for whom you must give an account before God- Yourself.

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

...faithfully and strenuously you should resist the heretics in defense of the only true and life-giving faith, which the Church has received from the apostles and imparted to her sons. For the Lord of all gave to His apostles the power of the Gospel, through whom also we have known the truth, that is, the doctrine of the Son of God: to whom also did the Lord declare: 'He who hears you, hears Me; and he who despises you, despises Me, and Him who sent Me' (Lk. 10:16)."

St. Irenaeus

Abba Anthony said, 'Whoever hammers a lump of iron, first decides what he is going to make of it, a scythe, a sword, or an axe. Even so we ought to make up our minds what kind of virtue we want to forge or we labor in vain.'

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Abba John the Dwarf said, 'There was a spiritual old man who lived a secluded life. He was held in high estimation in the city and enjoyed a great reputation. He was told that a certain old man, at the point of death, was calling for him, to embrace him before he fell asleep. He thought to himself, if I go by day, men will run after me, giving me great honour, and I shall not be at peace in all that. So I will go in the evening in the darkness and I shall escape everyone's notice. But lo, two angels were sent by God with lamps to give him light. Then the whole city came out to see his glory. The more he wished to flee from glory, the more he was glorified. In this was accomplished that which is written: "He who humbles himself will be exalted." ' (Luke 14:11)

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

The old men said to Abba Agathon to Abba Elias, in Egypt, 'He is a good Abba.' The old man answered them, 'In comparison with his own generation, he is good.' They said to him, 'And what is he in comparison with the ancients?' He gave them this answer, 'I have said to you that in comparison with his generation he is good but as to that of the ancients, in Scetis I have seen a man who, like Joshua the son of Nun could make the sun stand still in the heavens.' At these words they were astounded and gave glory to God.

Abba Agathon- Sayings of the Desert Fathers

# St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ September 10, 2017 ~  
Sunday before Exaltation*

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

[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

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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

## September 10, 2017 Sunday before Exaltation

**Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18**

**Gospel: John 3:13-17**

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Karen Bell**.

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

**September 10-17 (Wed & Fri Fast)**

- Sunday** -St. John Volunteer Fair during coffee hour  
-NO Teen Group
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Parish Council, 7:00 p.m.  
-AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Orthros, 5:00 p.m.  
-Divine Liturgy, 6:00 p.m.  
-Dinner following liturgy
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Chanters Workshop, 6:00 – 7:30 p.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.
- Sunday** -Orthros, 9:00 a.m.  
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

### DIVINE LITURGY

**Wednesday, September 13, 6:00 p.m.**

**PRIEST:** Fr. Philip

**HOMILY:** Fr. Philip

**HOLY BREAD:** Lavinia Dumitrache

### DIVINE LITURGY

**Sunday, September 17, 10:00 a.m.**

**PRIEST:** Fr. Philip

**HOMILY:** Fr. Philip

**READER:** David Twombly

**USHER:** Thomas Yadron

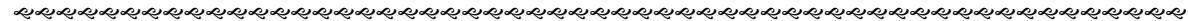
**HOLY BREAD:** Reem Mansour

**ALTAR SERVERS:** James, Nicholas, Eli, Elijah, Gabe

**COFFEE HOUR:** Nawar and Reem Mansour, Stephanie Harants

## COMMEMORATIONS

**Sept.10:** Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora; Empress Pulcheria.  
**Sept.11:** Venerable Theodora of Alexandria; Euphrosynos the Cook; Martyrs Demetrios and Euantha; translation of the relics of Venerable Sergios and Herman of Valaam.  
**Sept.12:** Hieromartyrs Autonomos of Italy and Coronatos of Iconium; Martyrs Okeanos; Venerable Daniel.  
**Sept.13:** The commemoration of the founding of the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem; Hieromartyr Cornelios the centurion; Martyr Aristeidos; Venerable Hierotheos the Younger of Iviron monastery on Athos; Great-martyr Ketevan, queen of Georgia; Six Martyrs at Tomi in Romania.  
**Sept.14:** The Elevation of the precious and life-giving Cross. Repose of John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable-martyr Makarios the New of Thessalonika; Venerable-martyr Joseph of Dionysiou monastery on Athos.  
**Sept.15:** Great-martyr Nikita the Goth; Martyr Porphyrios; Vissarion, bishop of Larisa; New-martyr John; Venerable Philotheos and Gerasimos; Joseph the New of Partos, the wonder-worker, metropolitan of Timisoara.  
**Sept.16:** Great-martyr Euphemia the all-praised; Martin the bishop; New-martyrs Isaac and Joseph of Georgia; Martyr Ludmilla, grandmother of Wenceslaus prince of the Czechs; Venerable Prokopios of Sazava in Bohemia.  
**Sept.17:** Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope; Hieromartyr Herakleidos of Cyprus; Martyr Agathokleia; Venerable Anastasios and Euxiphios.



<b>DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS</b>			<b>September 10 - 17</b>	
Sunday	Galatians	6:11-18	John	3:13-17
Monday	Galatians	2:11-16	John	12:19-36
Tuesday	Galatians	2:21; 3:1-7	John	11:47-54
Wednesday	Hebrews	3:1-4	John	12:25-36
Thursday	1 Corinthians	1:18-24	John	19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30
Friday	Colossians	1:24-29, 2:1	Matt.	10:16-22
Saturday	2 Corinthians	6:1-10	John	8:21-30
Sunday	Galatians	2:16-20	Mark	8:34-38; 9:1



**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.



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Chanting Workshop** – Have you ever wanted to become more familiar with the hymns we sing in the church so that you can join along with the chanters and choir? We will begin our chanting workshop on Thursday September 14th from 6:00-7:30. All are welcome to join us every other week on Thursday nights as we learn the hymns from our services and the 8 tones that go along with them. May God grant us the strength and humility to praise him with one mouth and one heart with the heavenly choir magnifying his name throughout the ages.

**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 during coffee hour. 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 some of our many activities!

**30<sup>th</sup> 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 began today. Please see the insert for which class your child(ren) should be attending and its location.

**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.

### **Master Plan Updates**

**Progress on the St Raphael Hall** – Things are progressing extremely well! Thanks be to God!

**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

<b>Sunday, 9/10:</b>	Jack Turner Anniversary: Jeff and Kim Boone
<b>Monday, 9/11:</b>	<i>St. Xenia: Marshall McWhorter, Xenia Wallace</i>
<b>Wednesday, 9/13:</b>	Gavin van Drimmelen, Nicole Mansour, Elizabeth Cameron
<b>Friday, 9/15:</b>	Nicholas Hill
<b>Saturday, 9/16:</b>	Alexandru New

### Upcoming at St. John

September 13*	Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Orthros, 5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy – 6:00 p.m. (*please note date change)
September 17	Soup Kitchen at First Presbyterian downtown, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
September 25	Great Vespers – Repose of St. John, 6:00 p.m. <i>Patronal Potluck to follow vespers</i>
September 26	Divine Liturgy – Repose of St. John, 9:00 a.m.
October 8	Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for Michael Elliott & Sarah Koplín



## *Women of St. John*

### AWSJ Calendar

<b>Sept. 11</b>	<b>AWSJ Book Club</b> will be discussing <i>1453</i> by Roger Crowley
<b>Sept. 24</b>	<b>Bridal Shower</b> for Sarah Koplín, following coffee hour
<b>Sept. 18</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> , 6:30 p.m. – Social Time, 7:00 p.m. discussion begins. We will meet at Reem Mansour's home.
<b>Oct. 5</b>	<b>Women's Teaching</b> , 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home

### 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. 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.

## Library Lines

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast day of St. Euphrosynos (9/11). His icon adorns *St. John Cooks Again* (SPRR/LIV/STJ) and many of our kitchen walls. Read about his life of humility, quietness and devotion to Truth in the introduction to the St. John cookbook. His story also is told and accompanied with beautifully colored illustrations in *The Boy, a Kitchen, and His Cave* (KID STS EUP) by Catherine Contopoulos.

Our thoughts (and questions) turned to the Church Calendar last week as we celebrated the Indiction. This is a busy month in our parish with several memorial services and feast days which all keep the mystery of *time* on our minds. You may have noticed that many feasts, including September's Nativity of the Theotokos (9/8) and the Elevation of the Cross (9/14), also have *forefeasts* and *leavetakings*. The feast days assigned for forefeasts and leavetakings and the length of days for them is determined by the class or ranking of them as set out in *The Festal Menaion* and *The Pentecostarion*. These are books that set the cycle of services in the Church. For more reading on time, see *The Year of Grace of the Lord* (CAT CAL MON) written by a monk of the Eastern Church. *The Orthodox Church Calendar* (CAT CAL PHO), and *The Church Year* (CAT CAL SCH) from the *Celebration of Faith* series.

The Cross is the focus of our attention many times throughout the year. On the third Sunday of Lent, the Adoration of the Cross, we remember the great significance the Cross plays in our salvation. March 6th, we commemorated the finding of the Cross by St. Helen. May 21, is the feast day of St. Helen who was sent by her son, St. Constantine, on a pilgrimage to find the True Cross of Christ. August 1 we commemorated the Procession of the Cross through the streets of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city and relief from illnesses. Thursday (9/14), the Elevation of the Cross, we celebrate specific events centered around the true Cross. This is the only one of the twelve great feasts of the Church that is not directly connected with Christ or the Theotokos. Read about the history and traditions surrounding feast days of the Cross in *A Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy* (HIS PAT), *Great Lent* (CAT LNT HLWK SCH) by Alexander Schmemmann, *Sermons on the Major Holy Days* (CAT CAL CON) by Anthony M. Coniaris, *St. Helen Finds the Cross of Jesus* (KID STS HEL), *Exaltation of the Cross*. (KID CHU ELA), and *A Child's Paradise of Saints* (KID STS MCL)

Part of the richness of our church calendar is that it shows us families who are part of the living body of Christ. Saturday we commemorate a saint connected with Advent. The Holy Martyr Ludmilla (9/16), a Czech princess, was the grandmother of St. Wenceslaus, the good king who fed the poor on the feast of St. Stephen.

St. Euphemia the All-praised (9/16) is best known for a miracle occurring after her death. The Fourth Ecumenical Council was held in a church which housed her relics. It was convened to establish the nature of Christ. The Monophysites opposed the doctrine of His two natures, divine and human, asserting Jesus was divine and not human. The Patriarch proposed that the two views be written down, St. Euphemia's tomb was opened and the scrolls placed on her bosom. This was done, and the tomb was then sealed and guarded by the emperor's soldiers. After three days of prayer and fasting, the tomb was opened. The scroll of the Orthodox confession was in her right hand and that of the heretics was at her feet. Read more about her in *The Encyclopedia of Major Saints and Fathers*, (HAG - - - ELE), p. 34 and in *Orthodox Saints* (HAG - - - POU), on p. 135 in the blue book and on pp. 25 and 199 in the yellow book. She is also commemorated July 11.