

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

He who has received a gift from God, and is ungrateful for it, is already on the way to losing it.

St. Peter of Damaskos

Peace is truly the complete and undisturbed possession of what is desired."

St. Maximos the Confessor

"Among all His actions there is none which is not entirely a matter of mercy, love, and compassion: this constitutes the beginning and the end of His dealings with us."

St. Isaac the Syrian

"Blessed is the person who knows his own weakness, because awareness of this becomes for him the foundation and the beginning of all that is good and beautiful."

St. Isaac the Syrian

"Suffering is not merely a payment for healing, but a call to transformation of life and illumination of the soul; it is a path leading to perfection, a ladder to spiritual cleansing."

The Singing Heart, 134

Dispassion and humility lead to spiritual knowledge. Without them no one will see the Lord.

St. Maximos the Confessor

## St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ September 11, 2016 ~*  
*Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross*

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

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

[www.orthodoxtupelo.com](http://www.orthodoxtupelo.com)

**V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers**  
Pastor

**V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Rev. Fr. Donald Berge**  
Attached

**V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul**  
Assistant Pastor

**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 11, 2016

### Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

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

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

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Stephanie Harants**.

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

Sept. 11 - 18 (Wed. & Fri. Fast)

**Sunday** -Teen Group, following liturgy until 5:30 p.m.

**Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Barksdale's  
-Great Vespers for the Elevation of the Holy Cross, 6:00 p.m.  
-NO Catechumen/Inquirers class

**Wednesday** -**Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Holy Cross**, 9:00 a.m.  
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., Parish Meal following  
-Wednesday Teaching, 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m. at Judy Terry's home

**Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
- Paraklesis, 12:00 p.m.

**Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.  
-Young Adults Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday** -**Orthros, 8:45 a.m.**  
-**Church School, 9:00 a.m.**  
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

### **DIVINE LITURGY - Elevation of the Holy Cross Wed., September 14, 9:00 a.m.**

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
HOLY BREAD:	Kh. Pamela	READER:	John McGee
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Eli		
COFFEE HOUR:	NO ONE SIGNED UP, PLEASE HELP AS ABLE		

### **DIVINE LITURGY Sunday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.**

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	Jack Turner	USHER:	Matt Spinolo
HOLY BREAD:	Sarah Hodges		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Cade, Pavel, James, Alex, Paul		
COFFEE HOUR:	Mickey & Sarah Hodges, Anne Dugan		

## COMMEMORATIONS

**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 Aristeidios; 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.

**Sept.18:** Eumenios the wonder-worker, bishop of Gortyna; Martyr Ariadne of Phrygia.

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**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**September 11-18**

|           |               |          |         |                              |
|-----------|---------------|----------|---------|------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Galatians     | 6:11-18  | John    | 3:13-17                      |
| Monday    | 2 Corinthians | 8:7-15   | John    | 11:47-54                     |
| Tuesday   | Hebrews       | 3:1-4    | John    | 12:25-36                     |
| Wednesday | 1 Corinthians | 1:18-24  | John    | 19:6-11, 13-20,<br>25-28, 30 |
| Thursday  | Colossians    | 1:24-2:1 | Matthew | 10:16-22                     |
| Friday    | 2 Corinthians | 6:1-10   | Luke    | 7:36-50                      |
| Saturday  | 1 Corinthians | 1:26-2:5 | John    | 8:21-30                      |
| Sunday    | Galatians     | 2:16-20  | Mark    | 8:34-9:1                     |

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**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), Janna Knight (pregnant), Angela Leopold (pregnant), Chelsea Yadron (pregnant), Sarah Finley (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), Elfreida Drobashevsky, Maria Bellaflores, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Catechumen/Inquirers Class** - Due to our service schedule this week, there will be no Catechumen/Inquirers class on Tuesday evening.

**It is Dinner Club Sign-up time again!** 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 25. You may contact Margaret McKelroy or Corinne Elliott with any questions.

**Patronal Feast for St. John** – Our feast of the Repose of St. John the Theologian, our patron, falls on **Monday, September 26**. We will pray Great Vespers on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. and serve Divine Liturgy Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Our parish celebration will take place following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 25, with a **full pot luck meal**. I want to urge all of you to try to come pray with us for at least one of these services. Don't miss the chance to honor the one who prays faithfully for our salvations!

### **Men of St. John**

**The Men's Clean Up** assignments for 2016-17 have been made! They can be found on the website under Parish – Online Assignments and Sign Ups as well as on the refrigerator in the kitchen. **Patronal feast crew:** Aaron White, Bill Stanek, Ethan van Drimmelen, Jay Knight, Joel Finley, Nate Powell, Justin van Landingham, Nawar Mansour, Thomas Yadron.

**Men's Book Club, Sons of Thunder** will be meeting at 6:30 on Sunday, October 9th at Fr. Philip's house. They will be discussing God Is Not Great by Christopher Hitchens. All men are welcome.

### **teen group**

**TODAY: 9/11 Prayers followed by trip to Delta Fair.** Teens will be back at the church at 5:30 p.m.

**NEXT WEEK, September 18:** – Sky Zone Trampoline Park, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. – **ATTENTION PARENTS:** Your child will need to have a release form signed by you in order for them to participate at Sky Zone. See Fr. Alex with questions.

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

**Tuesday, 9/13:** Gavin van Drimmelen, Elizabeth, Cameron, Nicole Mansour  
**Thursday, 9/15:** Nicholas Hill  
**Friday, 9/16:** Alexandru New  
**Saturday, 9/17:** Deon Crum, Eliza Elliott  
*St. Sophia: Sophie Mansour*

### **Women of St. John - AWSJ**

**AWSJ Business Meeting** - Our first business meeting of the year will be on Sunday, **September 18th** (during coffee hour). I would love to see all of you there! We will be discussing upcoming events, filling a few volunteering positions & more....all while keeping the meeting short & sweet. So, grab some coffee, leave the kids with Dad & help us tackle the new AWSJ year head-on!

If you won't have anyone available to watch your littles during the meeting, please don't let that deter you! Let me know & I will make sure that childcare is available for you. We want you there, friends! ~Caitlin Romero, AWSJ President

- Sept. 12** **Book Club**, 7:00 p.m., *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio, Kh. Pamela's home.
- Sept. 15** **Women's Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's new home, 321 S. Watkins, Memphis
- Sept. 18** **AWSJ Business meeting** during coffee hour
- Nov. 11-12** **AWSJ Retreat** - Our speaker will be Dr. Nicole Rocca, author of *Time and Despondency*, and best known for her blog and podcast, "Time Eternal."

## Master Plan Updates

**Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc.** - Members of the Kitchen committee met at Federal Equipment to look at potential items for the new kitchen space. This week, our contractors will be doing some exploratory digging in order to prepare for the elevator and the elevation differences between the two buildings. Progress is being made!

**Fund raising** - Thank you for your contributions! It is not too late to help. It is probable that the final costs will exceed the original estimates. If you would like to increase your pledge or begin making your monthly pledge, great! A reminder letter will be sent out soon.

## LIBRARY LINES -

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. Wednesday (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 SPEC SCH) by Alexander Schmemmann, *Sermons on the Major Holy Days* (CAT SAC 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. Tuesday 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 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.

Saturday we honor St. Sophia (9/17). She endured the greatest pain a mother can endure. Her three daughters, Faith, Hope and Love were tortured and beheaded in her sight. She buried them and stayed by their graves for three days and then gave her soul to God. Believers buried her beside her children. Their icon is in the center of the balcony wall. After you venerate them, take your children to the library so they can read her story in *Christina's Favorite Saints* (KID STS KHO), p. 22 and in *Let the Little Children Come to Me* (HAG/ - - - SAI), p. 27.

### **REGULAR ALMS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Birthright ♦ St. John Alms Fund ♦ St. Brigid Food Pantry ♦ Rachel's Kids, Inc. ♦ St. John Camping Fund ♦ Nativity Alms for the Homeless ♦ Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Mission Fund ♦ Michael & Abigail Bittle Fund