

From the Fathers (and others):

Approval and gratitude are due not to the man who receives gifts but to Him Who bestows them. Yet by grace he who receives a gift may deserve approval because by his own choice he accepted what he did not have or, rather, because he is grateful to his Benefactor. And if he is not grateful, not only does he forfeit all approval, but he is self-condemned for his ingratitude as well.

St. Peter of Damaskos

We must totally rely on God's providence as this is the only way to be relieved of our anxiety and worries... To trust divine providence one must free himself from all worldly concerns and wait for God to look after him.

Elder Paisios

"Prayer is a harbor in the storms of life, an anchor for those who are storm-tossed, the treasure of the poor, the security of the rich, the healing of the sick, the preservation of health. Prayer banishes evil things, and preserves the good."

St. John Chrysostom

"At your work, whatever it may be, you can become a saint through meekness, patience, and love. Make a new start every day, with new resolution, with enthusiasm and love, prayer and silence — not with anxiety so that you get a pain in the chest."

St. Porphyrios

"A brother asked a certain old man, saying, 'There be two brother, and one of them is quiet in his cell, and prolongs his fast for six days, and lays much travail on himself: but the other tends the sick. Whose work is more acceptable to God? And the old man answered, 'If that brother who carries his fast for six days were to hang himself up by the nostrils, he could not equal the other, who does service to the sick.'"

St. John Orthodox Church



~ September 18, 2016 ~
Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

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

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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 18, 2016

Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Sarah Hodges**.

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. 18 - 25 (Wed. & Fri. Fast)

- Sunday** -Teen Group, following liturgy until 5:30 p.m.
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Barksdale's
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., Ten Commandments, con't
Wednesday -Third Hour, 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.
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.
Sunday -**Orthros, 8:45 a.m.**
-**Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
-Patronal Feast Potluck following liturgy
-Great Vespers for the Repose of St. John, 6:00 p.m.

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, September 25, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Alex
READER: John Cameron
HOMILY: Fr. Alex
HOLY BREAD: Caitlyn Maas
USHER: Dan O'Brien
ALTAR SERVERS: Zach, Trent, Max, Eli, Nicholas, Thomas
FEAST CLEAN UP: Aaron White, Bill Stanek, Ethan van Drimmelen, Jay Knight, Joel Finley, Nate Powell, Justin van Landingham, Nawar Mansour, Thomas Yadron.

Memorial Today

Mary Allison Calloway – 18 years



COMMEMORATIONS

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

Sept. 19: Martyrs Trophimos, Dorymedon, Savvatos and Susanna; Hieromartyr Januarios of Benevento and his companions; Theodore, prince of Smolensk, and his sons David and Constantine, wonderworkers of Yaroslav; Theodore of Tarsus, archbishop of Canterbury.

Sept.20: Great-martyr Eustathios and his family; Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Venerable John of Crete; Martyrs Michael, prince of Chernigov, and his councilor Theodore.

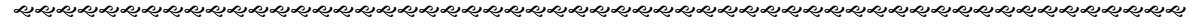
Sept.21: Apostle Quadratos of the Seventy; Prophet Jonah; uncovering of the relics of Demetrios, bishop of Rostov.

Sept.22: Hieromartyr Phocas of Sinope the wonder-worker; New-martyrs Isaac and Martin; Twenty-six Venerable-martyrs of Zographou monastery on Athos; Venerable Cosmas the Bulgarian of Zographou monastery on Athos.

Sept. 23: The Conception of the Forerunner; Martyr Raidos; New-martyrs Nicholas and John; Venerable Xanthippa and Polyxena of Spain.

Sept.24: Proto-martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles; the commemoration of the wonder-working icon of the Theotokos of the Myrtle Tree; New-martyr Ahmed; Venerable Nicander of Pskov; Venerable Silouan of Athos; the synaxis of all saints of Alaska.

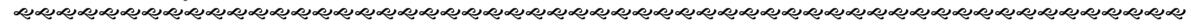
Sept.25: Venerable Euphrosyne of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Paphnoutios and those with him; repose of Venerable Sergios of Radonezh; translation of the relics of Herman, archbishop of Kazan.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 18-25

Sunday	Galatians	2:16-20	Mark	8:34-9:1
Monday	2 Corinthians	12:10-19	Luke	3:19-22
Tuesday	Ephesians	6:10-17	Luke	21:12-19
Wednesday	2 Corinthians	13:3-13	Luke	4:1-15
Thursday	Galatians	1:1-3, 20-24; 2:1-5	Luke	4:16-22
Friday	Galatians	4:22-27	Luke	1:5-25
Saturday	2 Timothy	3:10-15	Matthew	25:1-13
Sunday	2 Corinthians	1:21-2:4	Luke	5:1-11



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, 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.

Skete.com Icon Order – We will soon be placing an icon order with skete.com. If you would like to avoid shipping by having us include you in our order, please email Trish, tratliff@stjohnmemphis.org. She will need the item numbers and sizes of the icons you wish to order. Orders must be received by September 27th.

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!

Please contact Trish if you would like to set up and help with the potluck.

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: 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.

NEXT WEEK, September 25: Patronal Feast Celebration – 6:00 Vespers

COMING UP: Lock-In, November 18-19 – More information to come!

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 9/18: Max Mendenhall
Tuesday, 9/20: Julie Sanderlin
Thursday, 9/22: Thomas Cameron
Friday, 9/23: Rod Ratliff
Anniversary: Don & Julie Sanderlin
Saturday, 9/24: *St. Silouan: Keith Parker, Tyson Smith*

Women of St. John – AWSJ

AWSJ Business Meeting – Our first business meeting of the year is today 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!

Sept. 18 AWSJ Business meeting during coffee hour
Oct. 3 Book Club, 7:00 p.m., *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Frye* by Rachel Joyce
Oct. 6 Women’s Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home
Oct. 22 Baby Shower for Christina Moore, 11:00 a.m.
Oct. 29 Fall Fest and Chili Cook Off
Nov. 11-12 AWSJ Retreat – Our speaker will be Dr. Nicole Rocca, author of *Time and Despondency*, and best known for her blog and

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – You might have noticed the hole in the concrete outside the east door on the first floor! Our contractor started to do some exploratory drilling to properly plan out our construction. Contacts have been made with the city to potentially improve our alleyway in order to help the access to the new building. As we hear more information, we will let you know. Please, keep the entire project in your prayers!

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 -

Occasionally a story from the lives of the saints makes its way into our everyday vocabulary. This week's *whale of a tale* has tremendous theological significance for us all, and it appeals especially to children, sailors, gardeners, and zoologists! Thursday we commemorate the Holy prophet Jonah (9/22). God called him to bring His message to the wicked city of Nineveh. He fled God’s presence on a storm-tossed ship, and the sailors threw him overboard. (Hence another oft-heard term, a *Jonah*, meaning a person believed to bring bad luck to those around him.) He was swallowed by a great fish and remained in his belly for three days. God heard his cries and caused the whale to vomit him up on land. Jonah traveled on to Nineveh and prophesied destruction of the city because of the people's wickedness. Unexpectedly to Jonah, they repented. He had looked forward to their punishment and when it didn't happen, he sulked in the desert under a vine of gourds which God created solely for his shelter. God then created a worm to eat the plant. Jonah grieved for the vine, and God chided Jonah for his folly in grieving for a plant and in wishing for punishment of “human beings, who do not know their right hand or their left hand-and also much cattle...” Read about Jonah and how this event is a picture of Pascha in *The Book of Jonah* (KID STS CHO) and *Jonah's Journey to the Deep* (KID STS JON).

How appropriate it is that we honor men who humbly work the earth to bring forth food, herbs and flowers for sustenance for our bodies and beauty for our souls. Tuesday we, especially the plant-lovers among us, remember St. Phocas the Gardener of Sinope (9/22). He aided the poor with his produce. When he accidentally happened upon men sent to arrest him for being a Christian, he gave them hospitality, made arrangements for his possessions to be given to the needy, and dug his own grave. When his captors saw this, they tried to spare him, but he refused and was beheaded.

Saturday we commemorate the Saints of Alaska (9/24). A very readable account of the history of Orthodoxy in our northern most state can be found Michael Oleksa’s *Orthodox Alaska*. He begins showing us the model for missions with the story of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and their conviction that its goal has to be the “incarnation of the Logos of God into the language and customs of a country,” and the “growth of an indigenous Church which will sanctify and endorse the people’s personality.” Fr. Michael relates the Alaskan culture and Russian Orthodoxy and goes on to tell the story of some of the saints we honor today.

REGULAR ALMS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Birthingright ☩ 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