

From the Fathers (and others):

When the torturer asked the Holy Martyr Sabbatius who he was and what his rank was, he replied: "My rank and dignity and homeland and glory and wealth is Christ, the Son of God, Who lives forever, and by Whose providence the universe exists and is governed."

As he was dying, Abba Benjamin said to his sons, "If you observe the following, you can be saved, "Be joyful at all times, pray without ceasing, and give thanks for all things."

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

I beg and beseech you , Lord: grant to all who have gone astray a true knowledge of you, so that each and every one may come to know your glory.

St Isaac the Syrian

Beloved Christians, you and your children shall appear at that Judgment of Christ, and you shall give account for them to the just Judge. He will not ask you whether you have taught your children the arts or whether you have taught them to speak French, or German, or Italian, but whether you have taught them to live as Christians.

St Tikhon of Zadonsk

A young person ought to keep company with other spiritually mature young people in order to be helped and move within a spiritual atmosphere. Let's not make things more difficult than they are.

St Paisios of Mount Athos

You remember how you were taught to write. Your mother put a pencil in your hand, took your hand in hers, and began to move it. Since you did not know at all what she meant to do, you left your hand completely free in hers. This is like the power of God in our lives.

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

St. John Orthodox Church



~ September 24, 2017 ~
Commemoration of the Proto-Martyr Thekla
and Silouan the Athonite

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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 24, 2017
Commemoration of St. Thekla, the Proto-Martyr
and Silouan the Athonite

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

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

September 24 – October 1 (Wed & Fri Fast)

Sunday -Teen Group, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
-Patronal Potluck
Tuesday -Divine Liturgy for St. John the Theologian, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., meal to follow
-Teaching, 7:00 p.m., Karen Wells on her trip to Scotland
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Chanter Workshop, 6:00 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

Sunday, October 1, 10:00 a.m.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| PRIEST: | Fr. Philip | HOMILY: | Fr. Philip |
| READER: | John Cameron | USHER: | Dan O'Brien & |
| HOLY BREAD: | Reem Mansour | | Jack Turner |
| ALTAR SERVERS: | Pavel, Max, Brody, Paul, volunteer | | |
| COFFEE HOUR: | Christine McGee, need help | | |

Memorials Today

Mary Allison Calloway, 19 years
Martin Elmo Thompson, 6 years
John Savka, 46 years

Upcoming at St. John

September 25 Great Vespers – Repose of St. John, 6:00 p.m.
Patronal Potluck to follow vespers
September 26 Divine Liturgy – Repose of St. John, 9:00 a.m.
October 8 Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for Michael Elliott & Sarah Koplin

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

Sept.26: The repose of the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.

Sept. 27: Martyr Kallistratos; the Apostles Aristarchos, Zenon and Mark of the Seventy; New-martyr Aquilina; Venerable Ignatios, abbot in Asia Minor; Venerable Savvatios of Solovskiy.

Sept.28: Venerable Chariton the Confessor, abbot of Palestine; Venerable Neophytos and Auxentios; Martyr Heliodoros; Prophet Baruch; Martyr Wenceslaus, prince of the Czechs.

Sept.29: Venerable Kyriakos the hermit of Palestine; Martyr Petronia; Venerable-martyrs Malachi and those with him.

Sept.30: Hieromartyr Gregory, bishop and enlightener of Greater Armenia; Martyrs Rhipsime and Gaiana and companions of Armenia; Michael, first metropolitan of Kiev; Venerable Gregory of Pelshma River.

Oct. 1: The Protection of the Theotokos; Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, first bishop of Damascus; Martyr Domninos; Romanos the Melode; Venerable John Koukouzelis of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable Gregory the Domestikos of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable Sabbas of Vishera.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 24 – October 1

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|-----------|---------------|----------------|------|--------------------|
| Sunday | 2 Timothy | 3:10-15 | Luke | 5:1-11 |
| Monday | Ephesians | 1:22-23; 2:1-3 | Luke | 4:38-44 |
| Tuesday | 1 John | 4:12-19 | John | 19:25-27; 21:24-25 |
| Wednesday | Ephesians | 3:8-21 | Luke | 5:33-39 |
| Thursday | 2 Corinthians | 4:6-15 | Luke | 6:17-23 |
| Friday | Galatians | 5:22-26; 6:1-2 | Luke | 6:17-23 |
| Saturday | 1 Corinthians | 16:13-24 | Matt | 24:42-47 |
| Sunday | 2 Corinthians | 6:16-18, 7:1 | Luke | 6:31-36 |



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), 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, Michael Wallace (Bru’s brother), those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Patronal Feast of St. John – We will celebrate the feast by praying Great Vespers on Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. followed by a potluck meal. Tuesday morning, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. followed by coffee hour. Holy St. John, pray to God for us!

Regarding the Potluck - Please feel free to bring what you wish. However, there will be no ability to wash dishes, no access to plastic wrap, or food storage containers, etc. In light of these circumstances, *please take your dishes with you when you leave* or bring them in disposable containers. You will need to bring serving utensils as well as the kitchen will be in the process of being packed up.

Sons of Thunder will meet next on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 6:00PM at the Hodges home. We will be discussing four books: Animal Farm, Brave New World, Nineteen Eighty Four, and Fahrenheit 451. Read one or more.

Parking – It has come to our attention that there are those in the neighborhood who are upset that we currently use the green-space across the street from the church for parking. As we continue to attempt to be good neighbors, the parish council recently decided to ask the community to refrain from parking on that space. Our security guard will continue to use that location in order to have a good view of the majority of the property. However, we do ask that no one else park on that space. I am truly sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause. We will be contacting VECA to let them know our response to these comments from the neighborhood so that they are able to respond to any comments from the neighborhood as well. Thank you for your understanding!

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.

Master Plan Updates

Progress on the St Raphael Hall – The sidewalks have been put in, the landscaping will begin this week, the kitchen equipment has begun to arrive; things are shaping up!! This week, work will begin at changing our current space as we wait for the finishing touches and the occupancy permit to use our new hall. Lord willing, we will be in the new hall within the next couple of weeks!

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.

SIGN UP!

Online sign ups are available on our website, stjohnmemphis.org, under parish – online sign ups.

- 30th Anniversary & Hierarchal Visit
- Mercy Meals
- Wednesday Meal Pick Up (or cooking)
- Coffee Hour

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 9/24:** *St. Silouan:* Keith Parker, Tyson Smith
Tuesday, 9/26: *St. John:* Fr. John, Corey van Huystee
Wednesday, 9/27: Reem Mansour
Anniversary: Michael & Mindy Williams
St. Aquilina: Chelsea Yadron
Friday, 9/29: Jay Knight, Kate Kumar



The AWSJ cordially invites
the ladies of St. John to a

Bridal Shower

honoring

Sarah Koplín

Sunday, September 24th at 12:30 p.m.
At the home of Kh. Kathryn Rogers



Women of St. John AWSJ Calendar

- Sept. 18** **Women's Bible Study**, 6:30 p.m. – Social Time, 7:00 p.m. discussion
begins. We will meet at Reem Mansour's home.
Sept. 24 **Bridal Shower** for Sarah Koplín, following coffee hour
Oct. 2 **AWSJ Book Club** will be discussing *A City of Bells* by Elizabeth Goudge,
7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home
Oct. 5 **Women's Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home

Library Lines

Today 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 (HIS OLE)*. 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. Read more in *Blessed John the Wonderworker* (HAG JOH ROS), *From Earth to Heaven: the Apostolic Adventures of St. Innocent of Alaska* (HAG INN WER), *Man of God: St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco* (HAG JOH PER), and *Our Father Among the Saints, Raphael of Brooklyn* (HAG RAP AOC). Children will enjoy *North Star: St. Herman of Alaska* (KID STS HER), *Saint Herman of Alaska* (KID STS HER), *Saint Innocent of Alaska* (KID STS INN), *Journey Across North America* (KID STS GID), *St. John and Goolya* (KID STS JOH), *Story of Holy Hierarch John Maximovitch, the Wonderworker* (KID STS JOH), and *Journey Across North America* (KID STS GID).

Secular literature tells many tales of women who disguised themselves as men to accomplish some purpose that would be otherwise denied them. Even Christians have done so. St. Euphrosyne (9/25) was born into a pious family in Alexandria in the fifth century. After her father arranged a marriage for her, she donned men's clothing and ran away from home to pursue her desire for monasticism. She told the monks she was a eunuch named Smaragdus. After living there thirty eight years, she revealed her identity to her grieving father who was still searching for her.

Monday, we commemorate a saint whose story appeals to children and adults. St. Sergius of Radonezh (9/25) was given the name Bartholomew at his birth in 14th century Russia. He loved the Church and the beauty of God's world; however, he hated school because he could not learn to read. In answer to his prayers, God sent an angel to him in the form of an old monk. He gave a piece of prosfora to the boy to eat as a sign of God's gift of knowledge and understanding. Immediately he could read with ease and comprehension. When he became a man, he was tonsured as a monk. He went on to establish over 40 monasteries and, along with St. Seraphim of Sarov, he is one of Russia's most beloved saints. *The Wonderful Life of Russia's Saint Sergius of Radonezh* (KID/STS/RAD) relates his story in poetic form along with bright colorful icon style illustration. See also *Orthodox America*, issue #117, p. 5 for an article on his life.

Do you and your children enjoy singing, *Good King Wencelaus* at Christmastime? The ruler in this well-loved, 19th century Christmas carol was embroiled in Czech political intrigue since from birth in 907. Read about his life in *Good King Wenceslaus* (KID STS WEN) and in *Orthodox America*, #45 Nov.-Dec. 1984, p. 8. His feast day is September 28.