

### From the Fathers (and others):

When one has looked upon Jesus, though he be of little stature like Zacchaeus of old (cf. Lk. 19:3), and climb up on the top of the sycamore tree by mortifying his members which are upon the earth (cf. Col. 3:5), and having risen above the body of humiliation, then he shall receive the Word, and it shall be said to him, This day has salvation come to this house (cf. Lk. 19:9). Then let him lay hold on the salvation, and bring forth fruit more perfectly, scattering and pouring forth rightly that which as a publican he wrongly gathered.

St. Gregory the Theologian

Prayer is spiritual breathing; when we pray we breathe in the Holy Spirit; "praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jd. 1:20). Thus, all church prayers are the breathing of the Holy Spirit; as it were spiritual air and also light, spiritual fire, spiritual food and spiritual raiment.

St. John of Kronstadt

Abba Anthony said, "He also said, 'Our life and our death is with our neighbor. If we gain our brother, we have gained God, but if we scandalize our brother, we have sinned against Christ.'" (p 3)

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Our Lord Christ Himself strikes down our enemies through us, or in company with us. For he who eats Christ's flesh and drinks His blood abides with Christ and He in him. Therefore, when we overcome the enemies, it is the blood of Christ which overcomes, as it is written in Revelation: 'and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb' (Rev. 12:11).

Lorenzo Scupoli- Unseen Warfare

"Even the doing of what is good requires discrimination...for the good is not good unless its purpose is conformed to God's will."

St. Peter of Damascus

Many have said much about love, but you will find love itself only if you seek it among the disciples of Christ. For only they have true Love as love's teacher. 'Though I have the gift of prophecy', says St. Paul, 'and know all mysteries and all knowledge? and have no love, it profits me nothing' (I Cor. 13:2-3). He who possesses love possesses God Himself, for 'God is love' (I Jn. 4:8). To Him be glory throughout the ages. Amen.

St. Maximos the Confessor

# St. John Orthodox Church

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*~ September 3, 2017 ~  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*



## COMMEMORATIONS

**Sept. 3:** Hieromartyr Anthimos of Nicomedia; Martyr Chariton; New-martyr Polydoros of Cyprus; Venerable Theoktistos, fellow-faster with Euthymios the Great; Phoebe the deaconess; uncovering of the relics of Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-worker; Ionikios I, patriarch of Serbia.

**Sept. 4:** Hieromartyr Babylas of Antioch; Prophet Moses the God-seer; Martyrs Jerusalem, Sekendos, Sekendios and Kegouros in Sleppo; Martyr Hermione, daughter of the Apostle Philip the deacon; uncovering of the relics of Joasaph, bishop of Belgorod; Venerable Anthimos the New; New-hieromartyr Gorazd, bishop of Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia.

**Sept. 5:** Prophet Zachariah and Elizabeth, parents of the Forerunner; Obadiah, bishop of Persia; martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb.

**Sept. 6:** The commemoration of the miracle of the Archangel Michael in Colossae; Martyrs Eudoxios, Andronikos and Kalodote.

**Sept. 7:** Martyr Sozon of Cilicia; Apostles Euodos and Onesiphoros of the Seventy; New-martyr Athanasios; John, archbishop of Novgorod; Venerable Kassiane; Venerable Cloud of Nogent-sur-Seine.

**Sept. 8:** The Nativity of the Theotokos.

**Sept. 9:** The holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; Great-martyr Severian of Sebaste; the fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council; Venerable Joseph of Volotsk; uncovering of the relics of Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov.

**Sept.10:** Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora; Empress Pulcheria.



### **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **September 3 - 10**

|           |               |                     |         |                    |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Sunday    | 1 Corinthians | 16:13-24            | Matthew | 21:33-42           |
| Monday    | 2 Corinthians | 12:10-19            | Mark    | 4:10-23            |
| Tuesday   | 2 Corinthians | 12:20-21; 13:1-2    | Matthew | 24:13-28           |
| Wednesday | Hebrews       | 2:2-10              | Luke    | 10:16-21           |
| Thursday  | Galatians     | 1:1-3, 20-24; 2:1-5 | Mark    | 5:1-20             |
| Friday    | Philippians   | 2:5-11              | Luke    | 10:38-42, 11:27-28 |
| Saturday  | 1 Corinthians | 2:6-9               | Matthew | 10:37-42, 11:1     |
| Sunday    | Galatians     | 6:11-18             | John    | 3:13-17            |



**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



**Parish Council** Thank you for turning in your recommendations. The top recommendations from the parish who have accepted to serve on the council are Melissa White and Keith Parker. In addition, this year’s clergy representative will be Fr. Alex Mackoul. They will be joining Fr. Philip, Dan O’Brien, Anne Dugan, and Christine McGee for this year’s term. Thank you for your service to the Church!

**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 on Sundays, September 3 and 10. 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 one 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 will begin on September 10 at 9:00 a.m. Please see the insert for which class your child(ren) will be attending and its location.

**NEW Level 1 Atrium Parents** –It is very important for each child who has not previously been in an atrium to be introduced to our space *before* the first official day. Each tour should only last 15 minutes. Thank you for helping us begin the year smoothly!

**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** – The rain slowed down our progress on the bricks but they are coming along. The floors are stained, the new floor has been put in the walkway and the sidewalk and other concrete should begin to be poured next week. Things are progressing extremely well! Thank 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

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|------------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday, 9/3:</b>    | John McGee, Violet Hight   |
| <b>Monday, 9/4:</b>    | <i>St. Aaron: Aaron White, Aaron Martin</i>  |
| <b>Tuesday, 9/5:</b>   | Lillian George<br><i>St. Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner: Rachel McKelroy, Ellie Lyons, Ella White, Miriam Knight, Lily Paden</i>  |
| <b>Wednesday, 9/6:</b> | Megan Salloum<br><i>Archangel Michael: Michael Elliott, Michael Cameron, Michael Hill, Michael Williams</i>  |
| <b>Thursday, 9/7:</b>  | Melissa White  |
| <b>Friday, 9/8:</b>    | <i>St. Anna: Kh. Pamela, Sarah Ann Cameron, Anne Dugan, Joyce Bittle, Nicole Mansour, Lydia Williams, Joyce Grossman, Anna Sanderlin, Caroline O'Brien, Karen Bell, Jillanne Ballard, Sarah Koplín</i> |
| <b>Saturday, 9/9:</b>  | Kh. Pamela, Anne Dugan, Larry Ichniowski   |

### Upcoming at St. John

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| September 7   | Great Vespers - Nativity of Theotokos, 6:00 p.m.   |
| September 8   | Divine Liturgy - Nativity of the Theotokos, 9:00 a.m.  |
| September 13* | Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Orthros, 5:00 p.m.<br>Divine Liturgy – 6:00 p.m. (*please note date change) |
| September 25  | Great Vespers – Repose of St. John, 6:00 p.m.<br><b>Patronal Potluck to follow vespers</b>                 |
| September 26  | Divine Liturgy – Repose of St. John, 9:00 a.m.   |
| October 8     | Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for Michael Elliott & Sarah Koplín   |

#### **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

Hardly a week goes by that we don't commemorate the uncovering or translation of a saint's relics. This week we remember it today for St. Nektarios (9/3) and Monday for St. Joasaph (9/4). So, what's so important about it? *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (HIS/CRO) donates a page to this practice explaining that it is 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." Read *The Pearl* (CAT GEN WHE), beginning on p. 139, to find out more about venerating relics. Bishop Kallistos Ware relates this to the Orthodox theology of the body. See chapter 11 of *The Orthodox Church*.

September is very rich in commemorations of saints who are special to our parish. This week and next, we honor two sets of righteous parents, Sts. Zachariah and Elizabeth (9/5) and Sts. Joachim and Anna (9/9). Both of their stories are told in *The Life of the Virgin Mary, The Theotokos* (REF/ HAG/- -/HOL). It is an excellent addition for home libraries since it is a comprehensive source of Tradition, iconography and hymnography on everyone who touched the life of the Theotokos.

The Prophet Moses (9/4) is one of the most familiar persons in the Old Testament. His mother and sister hid him in a basket in the Nile to protect him from Pharaoh's soldiers. By God's grace he was raised as an Egyptian in the court of Pharaoh himself. He killed one of his soldiers and fled into the desert. There God called to him from a burning bush, a type of the Ever-virgin Theotokos, to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He performed many miracles during his life and appeared with the prophet Elias in the Transfiguration. Read about him in *Baby Moses* (KID STS MOS), *Moses' Flight from Egypt* (KID STS MOS), and *The Life of Moses* (PAT GRE) by St. Gregory of Nyssa.

Sts. Joahcim and Anna (9/9) are beautifully depicted in *The Story of Mary: the Mother of God* (KID STS MAR). The warm and colorful illustrations show a loving family who were instrumental in our salvation. This book is a wonderful bedtime book for little ones and can be read by primary grade children. See also *Mary, the Mother of Jesus* by Tomie de Paola, *The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children*, and *The Nativity of the Theotokos* by Sr. Elayne.

Saturday, we remember the fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council (9/9) who rejected the teachings of Nestorius and affirmed the title Theotokos to the Most Holy One. Church history, particularly the Councils, may seem dry, but it is far from the case. Read *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* by Leo Davis (HIS/DAV), and you will see politics and intrigue played out in the lives of very devout and humble men who staunchly defended the Truth.