

From the Fathers (and others):

Strive with all your might to bring your interior activity into accord with God, and you will overcome exterior passions.

Abba Arsenius

Faith is not accepting something with your mind. Faith is a spiritual organ through which you sense reality, just like your physical eyes. But for all of us this spiritual sense is terribly atrophied; to have faith requires lengthy care for our atrophied spiritual organ.

Anonymous Monk

Ideas of value always shun verbosity, being foreign to confusion and fantasy. Timely silence, then, is precious, for it is nothing less than the mother of the wisest thoughts.

St. Diadochos of Photiki

Sin has reigned over us and the inventor and father of sin has lorded it over all who dwell under the sky, provoking the transgression of the divine laws. But in Christ we see human nature, enjoying freedom of access to God.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

We should feel with our whole heart that we have no one to rely on except God, and that from Him, and Him alone can we expect every kind of good, every manner of help, and victory. Since we are nothing, we can expect nothing of ourselves, except stumblings and falls, which make us relinquish all hope of ourselves. On the other hand, we are certain always to be granted victory by God, if we arm our heart with a living trust in Him and an unshakable certainty that we will receive His help.

Lorenzo Scupoli

St. John Orthodox Church



~ September 4, 2016 ~
11th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of Hieromartyr Babylas of Antioch

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

www.stjohnmemphis.org

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 4, 2016 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Janine Smith**.

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. 4 - 11 (Wed. & Fri. Fast)

- Sunday** -Teen Group – Officer Elections, 5:00 – 7:00 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., Intro. to the Mysteries, Fr. Philip
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m., Parish Meal following
-Wednesday Teaching, 7:00 p.m.
-Parish Council Meeting, 7:45 p.m.
Thursday -Divine Liturgy for Nativity of the Theotokos, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Fall Party, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Caitlin Romero'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.
Sunday -Orthros, 8:45 a.m.
-Church School, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY - Nativity of the Theotokos Thursday, September 8, 9:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
HOLY BREAD:	Anne Dugan	READER:	Caleb McGee
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Eli		
COFFEE HOUR:	Kh. Pamela, Trish		

DIVINE LITURGY Sunday, September 11, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Alex
READER:	David Twombly	USHER:	Thomas Yadron
HOLY BREAD:	Janine Smith		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Cade, Pavel, James, Alex, Paul		
COFFEE HOUR:	Karen Bell, Anne Dugan		

Memorial Today
Kitty Gilliland – 14 years

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

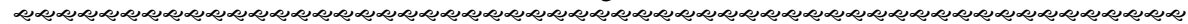
Sept. 7: Martyr Sozon of Cilicia; Apostles Euodos and Onesiphoros of the Seventy; New-martyr Athanasios; John, archbishop of Novgorod; Venerable Kassiane; Venerable Cloud of Nogent-sur-Seine.

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.

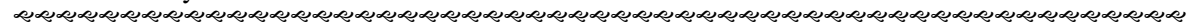
Sept.11: Venerable Theodora of Alexandria; Euphrosynos the Cook; Martyrs Demetrios and Euantha; translation of the relics of Venerable Sergios and Herman of Valaam.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 4 - 11

Sunday	1 Corinthians	9:2-12	Matthew	18:23-35
Monday	Hebrews	6:13-20	Matthew	23:29-39
Tuesday	Hebrews	2:2-10	Luke	10:16-21
Wednesday	2 Corinthians	6:11-16	Mark	1:23-28
Thursday	Philippians	2:5-11	Luke	10:38-42; 11:27-28
Friday	Galatians	4:22-27	Luke	8:16-21
Saturday	1 Corinthians	2:6-9	Matthew	10:37-11:1
Sunday	Galatians	6:11-18	John	3:13-17



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), Julie Hight (pregnant), 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



Fr. Philip will be out of the office on Friday, September 9.

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.

Welcome back College Students! We have seen some of our college students leave for their work elsewhere, but we are happy to welcome back those students who are back for their studies at colleges in the area including Rhodes and Ole Miss. We have a vibrant and active OCF group at Ole Miss and look forward to continuing to encourage local OCF activities as well.

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!**

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Monday, 9/5

St. Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner: Rachel McKelroy, Ella White, Elizabeth Cameron, Ellie Lyons, Miriam Knight

Tuesday, 9/6:

Megan Salloum

Archangel Michael: Michael Williams, Michael Cameron, Michael Elliott

Wednesday, 9/7:

Melissa White

Friday, 9/9:

Kh. Pamela, Larry Ichniowski, Anne Dugan

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11

Church school starts at 9 a.m. each Sunday for ages 3 through seniors in high school. This year, there are a few changes:

1. **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:** Level 1 and Level 2 will both meet on the third floor this year. You should have received an email from Claire letting you know which level your child will attend. We ask for atria children to be brought up the back stairs (east side of building) and to arrive at 8:55 a.m. We will meet in the hallway in front of our atria (rooms).
 - a. **Level 1** is for children **3- Kindergarten**. The catechists (leaders) are Sarah Finley and Trish Ratliff. Keith Parker will be assisting.
 - b. **Level 2** is for children **1st grade-9 years old**. The catechists for this level are Kh. Pamela, Corey van Huystee and Claire van Drimmelen. Please meet on the front porch.
2. **Michael Williams** will now be leading **4th – 7th graders**. His classroom has moved to the first room on the right at the top of the west stairs.
3. The **8-12th graders**, will remain in the Teen Room with **Nawar Mansour**.

Women of St. John – AWSJ

AWSJ Fall Kick Off - Caitlin Romero, our incoming AWSJ president, will be hosting the Women of St. John at her new home on the evening of September 8 to kick off the new church year. Please bring an appetizer and/or wine to share and join us for an informal girls' night!

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| Sept. 8 | AWSJ Fall Kick Off Appetizer Potluck , 6:00- 8:30 p.m., Caitlin Romero's home - 1587 Willey, Memphis. |
| Sept. 12 | Book Club , 7:00 p.m., <i>Wonder</i> by R. J. Palacio, Kh. Pamela's home. |
| Sept. 15 | Women's Teaching , 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home |
| Sept. 18 | AWSJ Business meeting during coffee hour |
| Nov. 11-12 | AWSJ Retreat – Our speaker will be Dr. Nicole Rocca, author of <i>Time and Despondency</i> , and best known for her blog and podcast, "Time Eternal." |

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

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – A special sub-committee to help design the kitchen met this week and began the process of laying out our desires for that space. In addition, the first official meeting with the contractor took place this week. The biggest issue discussed was the elevation issues with the new construction. Progress continues to be made to make this project a reality!

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 -

Very different circumstances surround our feast days this month! We see Church hierarchs staunchly defending our Faith, two holy couples who raised the Theotokos and the Forerunner, and a boy who showed his devotion to God in a life of meekness. See their stories and icons in St. John Library.

Sts. Joachim 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.

Friday 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.

Next Sunday we celebrate the feast day of St. Euphrosynos (9/11). His icon adorns *St. John Cooks Again* (SPR/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. Read reviews of this book in *The Handmaiden*, winter 2003, p. 63.