

## From the Fathers (and others):

*St. Maximus the Confessor:*

It is absolutely necessary that everything will cease its willful movement toward something else when the ultimate beauty that satisfies our desires appears.

When God's ineffable majesty is made known, all intellectual and sensible things will be encompassed by Him. It is like the light from the stars. The stars do not shine in the day. When the greater and incomparable light of the sun appears, they are hidden and cannot be seen by the senses. With respect to God this is even more so, for God is infinite, and uncreated things cannot be compared to created things.

The patient endurance of the saints exhausts the evil power that attacks them, since it makes them glory in sufferings undergone for the sake of the truth. It teaches those too much concerned with a life in the flesh to deepen themselves through such sufferings instead of pursuing ease and comfort; and it makes the flesh's natural weakness in the endurance of suffering a foundation for overwhelming spiritual power. For the natural weakness of the saints is precisely such a foundation, since the Lord has made their weakness stronger than the proud devil.

If you completely fulfill the command to love your neighbor, you will feel no bitterness or resentment against him whatever he does. If this is not the case, then the reason you fight against your brother is clearly that you seek after transitory things and prefer them to the commandment of love.

When a man's intellect is constantly with God, his desire grows beyond all measure into an intense longing for God and his incensiveness is completely transformed into divine love. For by continual participation in the divine radiance his intellect becomes totally filled with light; and when it has reintegrated its passible aspect, it redirects this aspect towards God, filling it with an incomprehensible and intense longing for Him and with unceasing love, thus drawing it entirely away from worldly things to the divine.

God's holy church in itself is a symbol of the sensible world, since it possesses the divine sanctuary as heaven and the beauty of the nave as earth. Likewise the world is a church, since it possesses heaven, corresponding to a sanctuary; and for a nave it has the adornment of the earth.

One should love every man from the soul, but one should place one's hope only in God and serve Him with all one's strength.

If the words of God are uttered merely as verbal expressions, and their message is not rooted in the virtuous way of life of those who utter them, they will not be heard. But if they are uttered through the practice of the commandments, their sound has such power that they dissolve the demons and dispose men eagerly to build their hearts into temples of God through making progress in works of righteousness.

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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~ January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 ~

***Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***

*Twelfth Sunday of Luke*

*Commemoration of Venerable Maximos the Confessor*

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

**His Eminence Metropolitan SABA**  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America  
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

**His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS**  
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers, Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman, Associate Pastor

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

V. Rev. Fr. Donald John Berge, Attached

**GREAT VESPERS**  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

**ORTHROS**  
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

## Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:4-11

**Gospel:** Luke 17:12-19

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Anne Castrodale.

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

January 21 - 28

**Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

**Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am

**Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm

**Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Vespers, 6:00 pm  
- \* **No Women's Teaching**  
- \* **No Bible Study**

**Thursday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am

**Friday** - First Hour, 6:45 am  
- Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Sixth Hour, 12:00 pm

**Saturday** - Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm

**Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

**Today's Churching:**  
Madison & Wade Dey

**Today's Chrismation:**  
Eric Iverson

**Upcoming Memorials – Jan. 28:**  
Aleksander Klimkowski – 40 days  
Clinton Nash – 18 years  
Rose Nash – 24 years

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

**Sunday, 1/21**

*Birthday:* Mike Jackson

*St. Maximos the Confessor:* John Sneed,  
Max Mendenhall, Max Wallace,  
Ervin Romero, Eric Iverson

**Monday, 1/22**

*Apostle Timothy:* Dn. Tim Mashburn, Tim Elliott

**Tuesday, 1/23**

None

**Wednesday, 1/24**

*Birthday:* Dn. Tim Mashburn

*St. Xenia:* Xenia Wallace, Dorothy Smith,  
Leah Shull, Marshall McWhorter, Jess Ada

**Thursday, 1/25**

*Birthday:* Jess Ada

**Friday, 1/26**

*Anniversary:* Fr. John & Kh. Pamela Mashburn

**Saturday, 1/27**

*Birthday:* William Maas, John Agnew

## Commemorations

**January 21:** Venerable Maximos the Confessor, Zosimos and Neophytos; Virgin-martyr Agnes of Rome; Venerable Maxim the Greek.

**January 22:** Apostle Timothy; Venerable-martyr Anastasios the Persian; Venerable Joseph the Sanctified of Crete.

**January 23:** Hieromartyr Clement, bishop of Ancyra; Martyr Agathangelos; Paulinos, bishop of Nola.

**January 24:** Hieromartyr Babylas of Sicily; Venerable Xenia the merciful of Rome; Venerable Philonos, bishop of Karpason; Venerable Neophytos the recluse of Cyprus; Venerable Dionysios of Olympos, abbot of Philotheou monastery on Athos; Hieromartyr Felician, bishop of Folingio in Umbria, Italy; Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg, fool-for-Christ.

**January 25:** Gregory the Theologian, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable Demetrios; New-martyr Auxentios of Constantinople.

**January 26:** Venerable Xenophon, his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Arkadios and John, of Constantinople; translation of the relics of Venerable Theodore the Studite.

**January 27:** The translation of the relics of John Chrysostom; Marciana the empress; New-martyr Demetrios of Constantinople; Venerable Clement.

**January 28:** Venerable Ephraim the Syrian; Venerable Palladios of Antioch; Martyr Charita; Venerable Theodosios of Totma; Isaac the Syrian, bishop of Ninevah.

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### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Colossians	3:4-11	Luke	17:12-19
Monday	2 Timothy	1:3-8	Matthew	10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30
Tuesday	Philippians	3:20-21; 4:1-3	Mark	2:23-28; 3:1-5
Wednesday	Galatians	5:22-26; 6:1-2	Matthew	14:22-34
Thursday	Hebrews	7:26-28; 8:1-2	John	10:9-16
Friday	1 Corinthians	3:9-17	Matthew	22:2-14
Saturday	Hebrews	7:26-28; 8:1-2	John	10:9-16
Sunday	1 Timothy	1:15-17	Luke	18:35-43

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### Remember in Your Prayers

**Our catechumens:** Jeff Bennett; Ben Haag; Thomas & Christy Potts; Eric Iverson; Andrew Potts; Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, & River Pfeister; Billy & Stacey Murray; Leighann Pompa; John & Lisa Weaver; Hannah Gibson; Richard & Lucas Luper; Michael Pritchett; Taylor Tawbush; Kyle, Jane, Isla & Lachlan Esposito; Eric Iverson

**Prayer Requests:** Mother Raphaela; Cathy & Adam van Drimmelen & family (Cathy's mother, Wilma West, fell asleep in the Lord on Nov. 13); Ken Alvis (Dianna Hildebrand's brother); Mary Elliott & family; Mike & Joyce Grossman; Chris Hodges; Mickey Hodges; St. Nicholas Orthodox Church; St. Paul Orthodox Mission; Samuel Brownlow; Elizabeth Turner (Jack's mother); Aleksandra Klimkowski & family; Emma & Katelyn Coe; Janan Heisig & family; Shawn McClenny (Miriam Redmond's brother-in-law); Charles Pugh (Madeleine Boiles's brother); the Bowick family; those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

**Expecting:** Katherine Verbist, Marija Pavlovic, Ioana Rustom, Heather Hetrick

**Diocesan Seminarian:** Caleb McGee



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**General Assembly Meeting** – On Sunday, February 18, we will have our annual general assembly meeting. In the meeting, we will have the final financial reports for the year as well as hear about any upcoming projects for 2024. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and we will have lunch meat for sandwiches to enjoy during the meeting. Please plan to attend!

**Out of the Office** – Fr. Philip & Ted will be out of the office Wednesday through Friday, attending a Youth Worker Conference. Please keep them in your prayers for a safe and productive journey.

**Orthodoxy 101** will next meet on Tuesday, January 30th, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Saints*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

**Medical Professionals Meeting – New Date of February 4th** – By the blessing and direction of Metropolitan SABA, a new fellowship is forming: The North American Antiochian Orthodox Medical Professionals. The first meeting of the local chapter will be Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> (please note the new date due to the weather) in the library following the Divine Liturgy, in order to discuss the goals and interests of the group. Box lunches will be served to those who RSVP. There will be a national Zoom meeting in March with Dr. Daniel Hinshaw as the keynote speaker.

**Theophany House Blessings** – It is time to schedule your House Blessing! Please sign up on the printed sheets in the parish hall for the times and days which are most convenient for your family to have your home blessed by one of our priests. Fr. Philip will follow up with you with a specific date and time.

### Seeking Volunteers for Room in the Inn for Winter

St. John's is signed up to host Room in the Inn this winter on Monday nights, to help families with children who continue to find themselves homeless in Memphis each week. Please use the sign-up link on the weekly parish emails to see if there is a task you can help with. Feel free to contact Thea at [thea.wallace@yahoo.com](mailto:thea.wallace@yahoo.com) or 404-408-3292 if you have any questions.

**Save the Date for our Pre-Lenten Retreat!** – Fr. Jeremy Davis, author of *Welcoming Gifts: Sacrifice in the Bible and Christian Life*, will be with us Feb. 9-11, offering a retreat on “Saved by Sacrifice: What is the Cross All About?” The Cross of Christ is the perfect sacrifice, fulfilling the missed potential of the offerings in the Old Law. Today many people focus on the violence and suffering endured by Jesus, but for ancient Christians these were merely the backdrop for His self-offering to the Father. The joyful and positive idea of sacrifice in the Bible and throughout the ancient world will give us a renewed appreciation for our salvation in Christ. All are welcome to attend the retreat and be encouraged as we prepare for Great Lent! Reserve your spot today by registering on the sign-up link in the weekly parish emails.

**The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club** will meet at the church at 6pm on Sunday, February 18, to discuss *The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene. Please bring food and drink to share.

**Photos on Bulletin Board** – Is your family pictured on the bulletin board leading into St. Raphael Hall? If not, please see Mr. Trent Terry! He will take your picture and add you to our photos. There are so many new people and it is great to have a tool to put a name to a face.

**2024 Calendars** can be found in the bookstore and hall.

**Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints & Fasting Calendar** (spiral bound) is \$20.

**Icon Wall Calendars** are free, but please limit to one copy per family.

## **St. John Youth**

### **Today:**

Sunday, 1/21 - TBD Snow Weather Plan

### **Next Week:**

Sunday, 1/28 - Service Project – Winter Kits and Discussion & Donuts (Lunch Provided), 12:30-2:30pm

### **Looking Ahead:**

Sunday, 2/4 - Lunch or Dinner at Someone's Home (TBD)

## **Women of St. John Calendar**

*\*No Women's Teaching this Week*

**2/5 (Mon.) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm** – The Women's Book Club will meet on Monday, Feb. 5 at Kh. Pamela Mashburn's home at 7pm. We will be discussing *Quilt of Souls* by Phyllis Lawson (or Phyllis Biffle Elmore). All are welcome to join, even if you have not read the book! Please RSVP to Kh. Pamela if you are planning to attend. We would love to see you! Bring a snack to share!

**Third Hour Prayer & Fellowship (Fridays), 9am** – Each Friday a group of moms and kids are gathering at the church to attend Third Hour prayers followed by a time of fellowship. Any and all are welcome to join us! Please reach out to Heather Hetrick with any questions.

## **LIBRARY LINES**

St. Maximus the Confessor (1/21) began his career in politics but resigned his position to serve the Church. Although the Fourth Ecumenical Council had condemned the monophysite heresy, it raged for many years, and he devoted himself to speaking against this falsehood. This story is recorded in *The Disputation with Pyrrhus of our Father Among the Saints Maximus the Confessor* (PAT MAX) which defends the Church's teaching on the two natures of Christ. His

defense of the Church angered the heretic emperor who imprisoned the saint and ordered his tongue and right hand severed. He was exiled to Sythia and died there in 662 A.D. His works include explanations of difficult passages of Scripture, commentaries on the Lord's Prayer and the Psalms, and treatises on St. Dionysius the Areopagite and St. Gregory the Theologian. See also St. John Library's *On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ* (PAT MAX) by St. Maximos and *Maximos the Confessor* (PAT MAX) by Andrew Louth.

Tuesday we commemorate the Sixth Ecumenical Council (1/23) which was convened in the mid 7<sup>th</sup> century. It condemned the Monothelism heresy and proclaimed the doctrine that Jesus had two wills and two natures. Read more about the Seven Councils in *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* (HIS DAV), *The Church of the Ancient Councils* (HIS LHU), *The Nicene Creed, pts.1-2, (vol. 2 of Formation of Christian Theology)* (HIS BEH), and *Oecumenical Synods of the Orthodox Church* (HIS THO).

Sometimes saints capture our attention simply because of their unusual names. Wednesday we honor two Xenias (1/24). Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg was widowed in her mid-twenties. She was considered a fool for Christ, partially because she dressed like her deceased husband and asked to be called by his name. She gave her inheritance away and roamed the poor sections of the city. She spent her nights praying in a field outside of town and brought bricks to a new church being built near the Smolensk cemetery. She foresaw events and loved to visit homes with children. Her intercessions are asked for those who are ill and for people seeking jobs. After you pray before her icon in our nave, visit the library and see *The Life and Miracles of Blessed Xenia* (HAG XEN HTM), and *Recently Orthodox Canonized Saints* (HAG - - - DEV).

St. Xenia of Rome left her family home with her two devoted servants to escape an arranged marriage. She founded a women's monastery and comforted the poor and bereaved. Her mentor was St. Euthymius (1/20). At her death in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, a shining wreath of stars surrounding a cross appeared and remained until her burial. Her relics brought healing to many. Read more about her in *Saints and Sisterhood* (HAG- - -TOP).

You don't have to be around here too long before you begin to hear or read about the Optina Elders. Just who are these men and what is Optina? Optina Monastery, south of Moscow, renewed the hesychastic tradition in 18<sup>th</sup> century Russia. St. John Library offers books about and by Elders Anatoly (1/25), Nektary (4/29), Anthony (8/7), Barsanuphius (4/1), Joseph (5/9), Leonid (10/11), Macarius (9/7), and Moses (6/16). Check out *Living Without Hypocrisy* (PAT - - - OPT) where you will find their spiritual counsels arranged by subject. Look up their names in the library's subject catalog to find books about each of them.

Friday we commemorate St. Xenophon and his wife Maria and sons (1/26). They were fifth century, pious parents who sent their children to Beirut for schooling. The boys were shipwrecked and washed ashore at different places. They were presumed dead by their parents and independently became monks. Years later, Xenophon and Maria learned their sons had survived and had joined them in the monastic life. See more about their lives in *Marriage as a Path to Holiness* (HAG- - -FOR) and *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG- - -MOS).