

## From the Fathers (and others):

Be dead in life, and you will not live in death. Let your soul die strenuously, and not live in weakness. Not only those who suffer death for the sake of faith in Christ are martyrs; but also those who die because of their observance of His commandments.

- *St. Isaac the Syrian*

Remember, never to fear the power of evil more than your trust in the power and love of God.

- *Hermas, one of the Seventy*

In reference to the fulfillment of that which you ask of God in prayer, believe that it is as easy, and even incomparably easier, for the Lord to fulfill each of your words than it is for you to pronounce the words, and that if there is the word, there is also the deed; for with the Lord there is no word without the deed; no word shall return unto Him void (cf. Isa. 55:11), according to His word. Remember constantly during prayer that God is That Which Is, and that from Him everything proceeds: both the thought concerning anything, and the word concerning anything and everything, that He is all wise, almighty and all gracious.

- *St. John of Kronstadt*

It is better to be despised than to despise. It is better to be insulted than to insult another.

- *Elder Justin Parvu of Romania*

... if, to me, "to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21), truly my words ought to be about Christ, my every thought and deed ought to depend upon His commandments, and my soul to be fashioned after His.

- *St. Basil the Great*

... brethren, we continually offer you words of encouragement, to stir all of you up to add good actions to your unswerving, honest thoughts, because this is what brings what is right to good effect. 'A good understanding', says David, 'have all they that do it' (Ps. 111:10). And 'His righteousness is unto the children's children; to such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them' (Ps. 103:17-18). Paul says, 'For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified' (Rom. 2:13). And the Lord of both David and Paul says, 'If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them' (Jn. 13:17).

- *St. Gregory Palamas*

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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~ October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~

***Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council***

*Fourth Sunday of Luke*

**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 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

## Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

**Epistle:** Titus 3:8-15

**Gospel:** Luke 8:5-15

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.

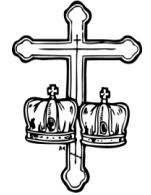
If you are from a non-Orthodox background, you may see new things such as icons, incense, the sign of the cross, the veneration of saints, and a great deal of standing. These can be perplexing to the uninitiated eye. Rest assured that everything we do has a solid biblical foundation and a long history 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

October 15 – 22

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am  
- AWSJ Baby Shower for Madison Dey, after Divine Liturgy
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm  
- Orthodoxy 101, 7:00 pm  
- Parish Council, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am  
- Vespers, 6:00 pm  
- Bible Study, 7:00 pm  
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm
- 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  
- RITI Informational Meeting, after Divine Liturgy  
- Clare Freeman & Jake Smith Wedding, 3:30 pm



**Upcoming Wedding – Oct. 22**  
Clare Freeman & Jake Smith

**Upcoming Memorials – Oct. 29**  
Dn. Sidney, 40 days  
Margaret Layman, 11 years  
Helen Lutrell, 26 years

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

**Sunday, 10/15**

None

**Monday, 10/16**

*Birthday:* David McGee, Stephen Sanderlin  
*Anniversary:* Ethan & Claire van Drimmelen

**Tuesday, 10/17**

None

**Wednesday, 10/18**

*Birthday:* Maggie Harms

**Thursday, 10/19**

*Birthday:* William Finley  
*St. John of Kronstadt:* John Cameron  
*Prophet Joel:* Joel Finley

**Friday, 10/20**

None

**Saturday, 10/21**

*Birthday:* Judy Terry, Lisa Curry,  
Nancy Ingram

## Commemorations

**Oct. 15:** Hieromartyr Lucian of Antioch; Venerable Euthymios the Younger of Athos; Savvinos, bishop of Catania; Venerable Varsos.

**Oct. 16:** Martyr Longinos the centurion who stood at the cross of the Lord; Gall, enlightener of Switzerland.

**Oct. 17:** Prophet Hosea; Venerable-martyr Andrew of Crete.

**Oct. 18:** Apostle Luke the Evangelist; Martyr Marinos the Elder at Anazarbos; Venerable Theodore and Simeon; New-martyr Gabriel of Egypt; Peter of Cetinje.

**Oct. 19:** Prophet Joel; Martyr Varos; Mnason, Bishop of Cyprus; Venerable John of Rila and Prochoros of Pchinja.

**Oct. 20:** Great-martyr Artemios at Antioch; Gerasimos the New Ascetic of Kephallenia; Venerable Matrona of Chios.

**Oct. 21:** Venerable Hilarion the Great; Venerable Christodoulos of Patmos; Hieromartyr Soctrates; Martyr Theodota; Venerable Philotheos, Barnabas and Hilarion, bishop of Meglin in Bulgaria; New-martyr John of Monemvasia; Venerable-confessors Vissarion and Sophroios of Ciorara and Martyr Oprea of Salistie in Romania.

**Oct. 22:** Averkios the wonder-worker, equal-to-the-Apostles and bishop of Hierapolis; Seven youths (“Seven Sleepers”) martyred in Ephesos; Bishop Eulalios.

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### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Titus	3:8-15	Luke	8:5-15
Monday	Philippians	2:12-15	Matthew	27:33-54
Tuesday	Romans	9:18-33	Luke	9:23-27
Wednesday	Colossians	4:5-11, 14-18	Luke	10:16-21
Thursday	Acts	2:14-21	Luke	9:49-56
Friday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	Luke	10:1-15
Saturday	2 Corinthians	9:6-11	Luke	7:1-10
Sunday	Galatians	1:11-19	Luke	8:26-39

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### Remember in Your Prayers

**Our catechumens:** Jeff Bennett; Mitchell, Alicia, & Lily Schaftlein; Ben Haag; Thomas & Christy Potts; Eric Iverson; Andrew Potts; Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, & River Pfeister; Billy & Stacey Murray

**Prayer Requests:** Mother Raphaela; 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 & Aleksander Klimkowski; Emma & Katelyn Coe; Janan Heisig & family; Shawn McClenny (Miriam Redmond's brother-in-law); Kimberly Castrillon (Dianna Hildebrand's niece); Charles Pugh (Madeleine Boiles's brother); the Bowick family; those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

**Expecting:** Ashley Powell, Madison Dey, Katherine Verbist, Marija Pavlovic, Ioana Rustom

**Diocesan Seminarian:** Caleb McGee



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Orthodoxy 101** will next meet this Tuesday, October 17th, at 7pm. The topic will be *What is an Orthodox Christian?* All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

**Parish Council Update** – Lord willing, you will be receiving pledge cards for 2024 over the coming weeks. It is important to fill out the pledge card so that the council can properly prepare the budget for the coming year. Thank you for your continued support of our community! The next meeting of the council will be Tuesday, October 17. May God guide our council and the work of the Church!

**Choir Rehearsal** – The next choir rehearsal will be this Wednesday, October 18th, at 7pm.

**Room in the Inn Informational Meeting – October 22** – There will be a brief informational meeting in the library after church next Sunday, October 22, for anyone interested in or curious about volunteering with Room in the Inn this winter. We hope to see you there!

**Clare Freeman and Jake Smith Wedding – October 22** – The Sacrament of Marriage will be celebrated next Sunday, October 22, at 3:30 pm. All are welcome at the Wedding Ceremony. The Reception is limited to invitations. May the Lord God bless them with many years!

**Mercy Meals for the Spearmans!** – Skylar and Carole Sneed Spearman welcomed new baby Lincoln Clay Spearman on Monday, October 2. May God grant them many years!! If you would like to provide a meal for the family, please sign up on the link on the weekly parish emails.

**Chili Cook-Off! – Saturday, November 4! – Save the Date!**

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, after an early Vespers, we'll be celebrating our annual Fall Fest and Chili Cook-Off. If you think your chili can take first place, enter to win a prize! There will be games, face painting, and more for the kids. Non-scary costumes are welcome. If you'd like to donate candy, please leave it in the bucket in the fellowship hall. Be on the lookout for sign ups! Contact Brandon Maas if you have questions.

**Bishop NICHOLAS Visit! – Save the Date!** – He will be visiting Memphis the weekend of November 10-12. More details will follow soon!

**The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club** will meet at 6pm at the church on Sunday, November 12, to discuss St. Gregory of Nyssa's *The Life of Moses*. All men are welcome. Please bring a dish and drinks to share.

**Parish Grizzlies Game – RSVP NOW** – The NBA season is upon us! Our parish has reserved 20 tickets for the Sunday, November 26th game at 5pm. Tickets are \$25! Reserve yours today (email Ted at ted@stjohnmemphis.org) so we can order more if need be! Go Grizz!

**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.

## **St. John Youth**

### **Today:**

Sunday, 10/15 -

Lunch at Someone's Home/Discussion Topics, 1:30-3:30pm  
Please bring a side item or dessert.

### **This Week:**

Saturday, 10/21 -

Sunday, 10/22 -

Putt Putt Golf & Games, 10:30am-12:30pm  
No Youth Group

### **Looking Ahead:**

Sunday, 10/29 -

Service Project TBD (Soup Kitchen or Greenline Cleanup)

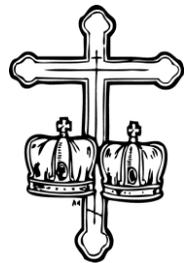
## **Women of St. John Calendar**

**10/18 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am** – Women's Teaching will meet this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

**11/6 (Mon) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm** – The Women's Book Club will next meet on Monday, Nov. 6. We will be discussing *Still Life* by Louise Penny. All are welcome to join, even if you have not read the book! Please RSVP if you are planning to attend. We would love to see you! Bring a snack to share!

As a reminder, this will be the last Book Club meeting this year, and the group will also be selecting titles for next year's Book Club. We would love to hear your recommendations, even if you can't commit to be present on the day your book is discussed. Both religious and secular books are welcome, as well as best-sellers.

New faces are always welcome, so even if you've never been to Book Club before, we would love to hear your thoughts and would love to see you there when your schedule permits! It is such a great way to meet new people and get to know one another.



## **Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for Clare Freeman & Jake Smith**

*Sunday, October 22nd*

*3:30 in the afternoon*

All are welcome at the Wedding Ceremony.  
The Reception is limited to invitations.

## **LIBRARY LINES**

Which Ecumenical Council do we honor today??? Hint: It's the one that many would say defines the Orthodox Church in the world's eyes. Also, it's the one we honor on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. In 787, the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (10/15) decreed that the icons were not idols and veneration of them was honorable. Thank God for these holy men. See the stories of the Councils in *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* (HIS DAV), *Foundations of Social Order* (HIS RUS), and *The Ecumenical Synods of the Orthodox Church* (HIS THO).

Several of the saints actively opposed Christianity before their conversion. Monday we honor St. Longinus (10/16), the centurion who stood at the foot of the Cross. Tradition says that he was cured of an eye ailment when water and blood poured out of the wound inflicted by him in Christ's side. He was later baptized by the Apostles and martyred by Pilate.

Once again we commemorate the translation of a saint's relics. This time it's for the Righteous Lazarus (10/17). He lived thirty years after Christ called him forth from the tomb and his relics were discovered in a marble coffin inscribed with the words, "Lazarus of the four days, the friend of Christ." They were transferred to Byzantium around the year 900. Read more about Christ raising him in *The Resurrection and the Icon* (ART ICO QUE). See also *Holy Relics* (CAT GEN FRA) for more on the veneration of relics.

The Prophet Hosea (10/17) lived in the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and was a contemporary of the Prophets Isaiah, Micah and Amos. Besides warning the Jews of their captivity by the Assyrians unless they repented of their sins, he foretold the end of sacrifices and the priesthood as they knew it. He also prophesied Christ's resurrection and triumph over death.

St. Luke (10/18) is a well-known and much-loved apostle. He shows us the Beauty of our Church in words and in images. However, few may realize that He was one of the Seventy. He wrote two books of the Bible, accompanied St. Paul on his journeys, and painted the first icons of the Mother of God. St. John Library owns five books on his works: *Commentary of the Gospel of Luke* (REF PAT CYR), *Exposition of the Holy Gospel According to St. Luke* (PAT AMB), *Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to St. Luke* (REF PAT THE), *Acts* (SCR COM CRO), and *Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles* (REF PAT BED). See *Meet the Evangelists* (KID STS KHO), *The Lives of the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - - - HOL) and *Notes on the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - - - MAS) for details about his life.

Who is a constant source of comfort when our non-Orthodox relatives die? St. Varus (10/19) is much loved and prayed-to saint in our parish. He was a Roman soldier in Egypt and a secret Christian. He joined a band of martyrs being encouraged by them, much like the 40 martyrs of Sebaste. His relics were rescued by a pious widow, and St. Varus appeared to her at her son's death. He is a saint who intercedes for the souls of our relatives outside the Church.