

From the Fathers (and others):

In ignorance, many people labor more to avoid suffering in old age and terminal illness than to avoid the torments of hell in the life after old age and death.

- *St. Nicholai of Zica*

Don't let anything deprive you of hope.

- *St. Nektarios of Aegina*

In Psalm 1:1 the Prophet David praises the man who does not commit three specific evils, and now he continues to praise him when he does two good things. The three evils are: to seek wisdom of a sinner, to live the life of a sinner, and to corrupt others by one's evil example. The two good things are: to conform one's will completely to the law of God, and to direct one's mind to meditate day and night on God's law.

- *St. Nicholai of Zica*

... the Lord often said to His disciples, 'Watch and pray; for you do not know at what hour your Lord is coming' (Mt. 24:42). For the demons are immaterial and sleepless, concerned only to fight against us and to destroy our souls through word, act and thought. We lack a similar persistence, and concern ourselves now with our comfort and with ephemeral opinion, now with worldly matters, now with a thousand and one other things. We are not in the least interested in examining our life, so that our intellect may develop the habit of so doing and may give attention to itself unremittingly.

- *St. Peter of Damaskos*

Do you not know what the priest is? He is an angel of the Lord. Are they his own words that he speaks? If you despise him, you do not despise him, but God Who ordained him. If God does not work through him, then there is no Baptism, nor Communion in the Mysteries, nor blessings; you are no longer Christians. What then, you say, does God ordain all, even the unworthy? God does not ordain all, but He works through all, though they themselves be unworthy, that the people may be saved ... Priests have more authority than do emperors. However, they often do not use it ... The priesthood is performed on earth but it possesses the order of heavenly things.

- *Saint John Chrysostom*

However great the afflictions we suffer, what are they compared with the promised future reward, or with the grace of the Holy Spirit that visits souls even in this present life, or with the deliverance that we have received from the obscurity of evil passions, or with the enormous debts we owe because of our sins? As St. Paul says: 'The sufferings of this present life are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us' (Rom. 8:18). Hence we must patiently endure everything for the Lord's sake, like brave soldiers dying for our King.

- *St. Makarios of Egypt*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ October 8th, 2023 ~

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Third Sunday of Luke

Commemoration of Righteous Mother Pelagia the Penitent of Antioch

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

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Trish Ratliff.

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 8 – 15

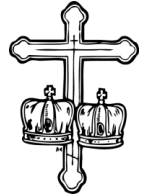
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Vespers, 6:00 pm
- Thursday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- AWSJ Fall Social Kick Off, 6:00 pm
- Friday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Sixth Hour, 12:00 pm
- AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6:00 pm
- Saturday** - Byzantine Chant Class, 4:30 pm
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- AWSJ Baby Shower for Madison Dey, after Divine Liturgy

Today's Memorials

Martin Elmo Thompson, 12 years
Vladimir Drobashevsky, 1 year
Urania Alissandratos, 16 years

Upcoming Wedding – Oct. 22

Clare Freeman & Jake Smith



Upcoming Memorial – Oct. 29

Dn. Sidney, 40 days

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 10/8

Anniversary: Michael & Sarah Elliott

Monday, 10/9

None

Tuesday, 10/10

Birthday: Dianna Hildebrand, Breanna Schoonover, Shiloh Smith

Wednesday, 10/11

Birthday: Jonah Powell
Zenaida of Tarsus: Rose McGee
Anniversary: Wilton & Bianca Cleveland

Thursday, 10/12

Birthday: Jordan Smith, Wilton Cleveland, Annie-Laurie Ortwein
St. Symeon, the New Theologian: Elinor Crenshaw

Friday, 10/13

Birthday: Billy Labonte

Saturday, 10/14

Birthday: Michael Williams

Commemorations

Oct. 8: Venerable Pelagia the penitent; Virgin-martyr Pelagia of Antioch; Martyr Taisia of Egypt; Hieromartyr Artemon; Venerable-martyr Ignatios of Prodromou Skete on Athos; Venerable Philotheos, patriarch of Constantinople; Martyr Ignatios of Bulgaria.

Oct. 9: Apostle James, son of Alpheos; Venerable Andronikos and Athanasia of Egypt; Venerable Poplia the confessor of Antioch; Righteous Forefather Abraham and his nephew the Righteous Lot; Stephen the Younger, king of Serbia; Dionysios, bishop of Paris.

Oct. 10: Martyrs Eulampios and Eulampia at Nicomedia; Venerable Theophilos the confessor of Bulgaria; Venerable Ambrose of Optina.

Oct. 11: Apostle Philip, the deacon, of the Seventy; Venerable Theophanes the branded; Nektarios, Arsakios, Philotheos and Sisinius, patriarchs of Constantinople; Venerable Jonah.

Oct. 12: Martyrs Probos, Andronikos and Tarachos at Tarsus; Cosmas the hymnographer, bishop of Maiuma.

Oct. 13: Marytrs Karpos, Papylos, Agathodoros, and Agathonika at Pergamos; Martyr Benjamin the deacon; Martyr Florentios of Thesalonika; New Virgin-martyr Chrissa (Zlata) of Meglin in Bulgaria.

Oct. 14: Martyrs Nazarios, Gervase, Protase and Kelsos of Milan; Venerable Kosmas and Nicholas; Venerable Paraskeva of Epivat; Ignatios the wonder-worker, archbishop of Methymna; Venerable Nicholas Sviatosha, prince of Chernigov and wonder-worker of the Kiev Caves.

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	2 Corinthians	9:6-11	Luke	7:11-16
Monday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	Matthew	9:36-38; 10:1-8
Tuesday	Philippians	1:8-14	Luke	8:1-3
Wednesday	Acts	8:26-39	Luke	8:22-25
Thursday	Philippians	1:20-27	Luke	9:7-11
Friday	Philippians	1:27-30; 2:1-4	Luke	9:12-18
Saturday	1 Corinthians	15:58; 16:1-3	Luke	6:1-10
Sunday	Titus	3:8-15	Luke	8:5-15

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



Fr Philip Out of the Office – Fr. Philip will be out of the office from Tuesday to Thursday this week. Because of that, there will be no Women's Teaching or Bible Study on Wednesday. There will be Vespers on Wednesday.

No Level 2 Atrium & No High School Sunday School Today – Parents, please note there will be no Atrium Level 2 and no High School Sunday School today. All other classes will meet as normal.

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.

Byzantine Chant Class

Our next Byzantine Chant class is this Saturday, October 14, at 4:30pm. We just started Tone 5, so if you have not joined us yet and would like to do so, please join now! All are welcome! Please reach out to Ted (ted@stjohnmemphis.org) if you have any questions! We hope you can join us!

Orthodoxy 101 will next meet on 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!

Room in the Inn Informational Meeting – October 22 – There will be a brief informational meeting in the library after church on 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 on 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!

Chili Cook-Off! – Saturday, November 4! – Saturday, November 4th, 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.

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, 10/8 - OKC Retreat – No Youth Group

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, 10/15 - Lunch at Someone's Home/Discussion Topics, 1:30-3:30pm
Please bring a side item or dessert.

Saturday, 10/21 - Putt Putt Golf & Games, 10:30am-12:30pm

Sunday, 10/22 - No Youth Group

Sunday, 10/29 - Service Project TBD (Soup Kitchen or Greenline Cleanup)

Women of St. John Calendar

*No Women's Teaching This Week

10/12 (Thurs.) AWSJ Fall Kick Off Social, 6-8pm – This Thursday! Come relax and socialize at Elizabeth Cameron's home as we kick off the new Church year! We have so many new women to meet and old friends to catch up with. If you would like to provide food, please contact Elizabeth.

10/13 (Fri.) AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6pm – Knitting Circle will meet this Friday, October 13, at 6pm at Miriam Redmond's home. Bring your projects (any handwork, not just knitting!) and (if you want to contribute) a snack to share! All women are welcome regardless of whether you do any handwork or not. We look forward to seeing you, even if just to chat!

10/15 (Sun.) Baby Shower Honoring Madison Dey, St. John's Library following Divine Liturgy – Join the AWSJ in honoring Madison Dey with a baby shower next Sunday, October 15, in St. John's Library after Divine Liturgy! Madison is registered at Babylist. Please RSVP through the email invitation. We hope to see you there!



LIBRARY LINES

Pelegia the Penitent (10/8), a 5th century saint, was a member of a dance troop and lived a life of prostitution. She was converted by St. Nonnus when she heard him preaching on the Last Judgment. She came to him weeping tears of repentance, and he baptized her. A demon tempted her to return to her former life, but she made the sign of the cross and he vanished. She gave her wealth to St. Nonnus to distribute to the poor and lived, disguised as a monk, in asceticism until her death in the fifth century. See her story in chapter 4, "Pelegia; Beauty Riding By" in *Harlots of the Desert* (HAG - - - WAR) and in *The Desert Fathers*, p. 173 (PAT - - - WAD).

Tomorrow, we remember the Righteous Abraham and his nephew Lot (10/9). God told him he would be the father of multitudes, and we even refer to God as "the God of our fathers, God of Abraham, Isaac and their righteous seed" in some of our prayers, including ones in the funeral service and the Lenten Prayer of Manasseh. Read more about them in *Children's Bible Reader* (KID BIB GBS).

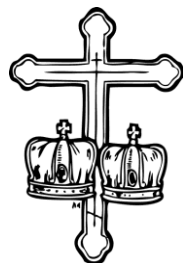
Sts. Andronicus and his wife, Athanasia (10/9), lived out their faith in alms-giving. He was a craftsman and gave three equal portions of his income to the Church, the poor, and to his family's support. After their children died, they mutually agreed to live the rest of their lives in separate monasteries. Twelve years later they met on a pilgrimage, but St. Athanasia had dressed as a man to ensure her safety while traveling. Because of this and the fact that her ascetic efforts had changed her appearance, Andronicus didn't recognize his wife. They returned to his monastery and lived in the same cell in a life of monastic silence. She wrote him a letter telling him her secret which was to be read after her death. See more about their lives in *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG- - - MOS).

Frequently we hear of saints referred to as an Elder. This practice goes beyond receiving advice from a priest to that of obedience to a pious, experienced holy man. It began in the deserts and was brought to Optina Monastery in Russia in 1829 by St. Leonid (10/11). He gleaned his wisdom through a disciple of St. Paisius Velichkovsky (11/15). For more information look at *Elder Leonid of Optina* (HAG LEO SED). Wednesday is also the Synaxis of all the Optina Elders.

Wednesday we also commemorate two Hymnographers. St. Theophanes and his brother Theodore (10/11) lived most of their lives in the Saint Savva monastery. They practiced the veneration of icons and denounced three iconoclast, 9th century emperors. The brothers were exiled and their faces were disfigured as punishment for their courageous beliefs. In his later years, St. Theophanes composed many canons including one about the defense of icons. His brother is known as St. Theodore the Branded (12/27).

Thursday we honor St. Cosmos the Hymnographer (10/12). He lived in the 8th century and was raised with St. John of Damascus. Together, they devised the system of the eight tones. He composed the Nativity Canon from which comes our Nativity greeting, "Christ is Born, Glorify Him." Read more about him in *Christina's Favorite Saints* (KID STS KHO).

Friday we commemorate the "Multiplier of Wheat" Icon of the Theotokos. It was written under the blessing of Elder Ambrose of Optina (10/10). It shows her sitting on clouds and blessing a field of grass, flowers and sheaves of rye. He loved Her, calling Her a "helper for people in their labors for the acquiring of their daily bread." For more icons of Mary, see *Icons of The Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and Prayers for Her Intercessions* (ART ICO KHO).



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.