

From the Fathers (and others):

Let no one out of laziness or continuous worldly occupations miss these holy Sunday gatherings, which God Himself handed down to us, lest he be justly abandoned by God... If you are detained and do not attend on one occasion, make up for it the next time, bringing yourself to Christ's Church. Otherwise, you may remain uncured, suffering from unbelief in your soul because of deeds or words, and failing to approach Christ's surgery to receive... holy healing.

- *St. Gregory Palamas*

Just as the farmer wears himself by merely plowing, digging and sowing the seed on the ground, but it grows and produces fruit early and late (cf. Jms. 5:7) by God's gift, so it is in reality, as you will discover, in spiritual matters. It belongs to us to engage in every activity and with much toil and weariness to sow the seeds of virtue, but by God's gift and mercy alone the rain of His loving-kindness and grace falls and causes the unfruitful soil of our hearts to bear fruit. When the grain of the word falls on our souls it receives the moisture of God's goodness; it germinates, grows, and becomes a great tree (cf. Mt. 13:31-32), that is, it attains to mature manhood, to 'the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ' (Eph. 4:13).

- *St. Symeon the New Theologian*

... the Apostle Peter declared that the Church was built by the Holy Spirit. For you read that he said: 'God, Who knows the hearts of men, bore witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as was given to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith' (Acts 15:8-9). In which is to be considered, that as Christ is the Cornerstone, Who joined together both peoples into one, so, too, the Holy Spirit made no distinction between the hearts of each people, but united them.

- *St. Ambrose*

I opened my mouth, and drew in the Spirit, and I give myself and my all to the Spirit, my action and speech, my inaction and silence, only let Him hold me and guide me, and move both hand and mind and tongue where it is right, and He wills: and restrain them as it is right and expedient. I am an instrument of God, a rational instrument, an instrument tuned and struck by that skillful artist, the Spirit.

- *Saint Gregory the Theologian*

The Lord promised to send the Comforter (Jn. 16:7), Who should join us to God. For as a compacted lump of dough cannot be formed of dry wheat without fluid matter, nor can a loaf possess unity, so, in like manner, neither could we, being many, be made one in Christ Jesus without the water from heaven. And as dry earth does not bring forth unless it receive moisture, in like manner we also, being originally a dry tree, could never have brought forth fruit unto life without the voluntary rain from above. For our bodies have received unity among themselves by means of that laver which leads to incorruption; but our souls, by means of the Spirit. Wherefore both are necessary, since both contribute towards the life of God.

- *St. Irenaeus*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ November 5th, 2023 ~

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Fifth Sunday of Luke

*Commemoration of Martyrs Galaktion & Episteme of Homs; Apostles Hermas,
Linus, Gaius, Patrobas & Philologos of the Seventy*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: 16:19-31

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Dn. Charles McKelroy.

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

November 5 – 12

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Orthodoxy 101, 7:00 pm
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am
- Vespers, 6:00 pm
- Bible Study, 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, 4:20 pm
- Chili Cook-Off & Fall Festival, 5:30 pm
- Young Adult Discussion w/Bishop NICHOLAS, 7:30 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Parish Potluck, following Divine Liturgy

Today's Churching:
Carole and Lincoln Spearman

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 11/5
None

Thursday, 11/9
None

Monday, 11/6
Birthday: Nicholas Williams, Janna Knight

Friday, 11/10
Birthday: Phil Anno

Tuesday, 11/7
Birthday: Sophia Warfel

Saturday, 11/11
Birthday: Amal Salloum, Rose McGee

Wednesday, 11/8
Birthday: Gwen Verbist, Chris Hodges
Archangel Michael: Michael Yadron,
Michael Elliott, Mikael Santana,
Michael Cameron, Mike Jackson,
Mike Jackson, Sr., Michael Sanderlin,
Michael Heisig
Archangel Gabriel: Ben Hodges,
Gabe Yadron
Archangel Raphael: Jonathan Koplin

Commemorations

Nov. 5: Martyrs Galaktion and Epistima of Homs; Apostles Hermas, Linos, Gaios, Patrobas and Philogos of the Seventy; Hieromartyr Pamphilos; Jonah, bishop of Novgorod.

Nov. 6: Paul the Confessor, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable Luke of Sicily; Paul the fool-for-Christ; Martyr Nicander; Venerable Barlaam of Khutyn; Herman, bishop of Kazan.

Nov. 7: Martyrs Thessalonkia in Amphipolis and Alexander of Thessalonika; the Thirty-three Martyrs of Melitene; Venerable Lazarus the wonder-worker of Magnesia; Venerable Gregory; Venerable Cyril of Novoezersk.

Nov. 8: The synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel and all the bodiless powers of heaven.

Nov. 9: Martyrs Onesiphoros and Porphyrios of Ephesos; Venerable Matrona of Constantinople; Theoktista of Lesvos; Simeon the Translator (Metaphrastes); Venerable Euthymios and Neophytos, founders of Docheiariou monastery on Athos; Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-worker.

Nov. 10: Apostles Olympas, Rodion, Sosipater, Tertios, Erastos and Quartos of the Seventy; Great-martyr Orestes of Cappadocia; Venerable Theostiriktos of Symbola.

Nov. 11: Martyrs Menas of Egypt, Victor of Damascus, Vincent and Stephanidos of Spain; Venerable Theodore the Studite; Blessed Maximos the fool-for-Christ; Martyr Stephen of Dechani, king of Serbia; Stephen Urosh and Princess Milica; Martin the Merciful, bishop of Tours.

Nov. 12: John the merciful, patriarch of Alexandria; Venerable Neilos the Faster Sinai; Venerable Neilos the myrrh-streaming of the Great Lavra on Athos; New-martyrs Sabbas and Nicholas of Constantinople.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Galatians	6:11-18	Luke	16:19-31
Monday	Hebrews	8:1-6	Luke	12:8-12
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians	1:6-10	Luke	12:42-48
Wednesday	Hebrews	2:2-10	Luke	10:16-21
Thursday	Ephesians	5:8-19	Matthew	4:25; 5:1-12
Friday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	Luke	13:31-35
Saturday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Luke	9:37-43
Sunday	2 Corinthians	9:6-11	Luke	10:25-37

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

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, November 7th, at 7pm. The topic will be *Creation*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Choir Rehearsal – The next choir rehearsal will be this Tuesday, November 7th, at 7pm.

Bishop NICHOLAS Visit! – Bishop NICHOLAS will be visiting Memphis this coming weekend, November 10-14. We hope you can join us during his visit! The current schedule of events is:

Saturday, November 11:

4:30 pm - Vespers
5:30 pm - Chili Cook-Off
7:30 pm - Young Adult Discussion

Tuesday, November 14:

12:00 pm - Men's Lunch at Dino's w/ Bishop NICHOLAS
6:00-8:00 pm - Women's Gathering w/ Bishop NICHOLAS in St. Raphael Hall (Food provided)

Sunday, November 12:

9:00 am - Orthros
10:00 am - Divine Liturgy
Pot-Luck Following the Divine Liturgy
2:00-4:00 pm - Teen Event w/ Bishop NICHOLAS

Chili Cook-Off! – This Saturday, November 11! – We'll be celebrating our annual Fall Fest and Chili Cook-Off after an early 4:30pm Vespers this Saturday! 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. Please see the weekly email for sign-ups. Contact Brandon Maas if you have questions.

Parish Pot-luck Next Sunday – We will have a Pot-luck Feast next Sunday, November 12, after Divine Liturgy. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship with St. John family!

Parish Council Update – It's that time of year again! There are pledge cards available in the Narthex. Included this year is a talent survey. The hope is to have an understanding of resources of the Church, both financial and physical. This way we can know where and how to expand our ministry offerings. Please take a moment to prayerfully fill out both the financial pledge and the talent survey! Thank you for all of your continued support of the work of the Church!

Volunteers Needed for Room in the Inn – We have two opportunities to host Room in the Inn this month, to help families with children who continue to find themselves homeless in Memphis each week. St. John's is signed up to host Monday, Nov. 20 & Monday, Nov. 27. Please check out the sign-up link on the weekly parish emails to see if there is a task you can help with. In addition, feel free to contact Thea at thea.wallace@yahoo.com or 404-408-3292 if you have any questions.

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.

The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club will meet at 6pm on Sunday, November 19, to discuss St. Gregory of Nyssa's *The Life of Moses*. All men are welcome. Please bring a dish & drinks to share.

St. John Youth

Today:

Sunday, 11/5 - No Youth Group – Prayer Secret Santa

This Week:

Saturday, 11/11 - Early Vespers & Chili Cook-Off, 4:30pm
Sunday, 11/12 - Parish Potluck after Liturgy
Bishop NICHOLAS Visit & Bowling @Main Event, 2-4pm

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, 11/19 - Service Project – Pass out Thanksgiving Meals to the Hungry, 1-3pm (Lunch Provided)
Sunday, 11/26 - Discussion & Donuts / St. Nicholas Play Logistics, 12:30-2:30pm (Lunch Provided)
Parish Grizzlies Game, 5:00pm
Saturday, 12/2 - St. Nicholas Play Rehearsal (Dinner Provided), TBD
Sunday, 12/3 - St. Nicholas Play Rehearsal (Lunch Provided), TBD
St. Nicholas Play Final Run-Through for Play Participants, 4:30pm
St. Nicholas Play/Event, 5-7pm

Women of St. John Calendar

11/6 (Mon.) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm – The Women’s Book Club will meet tomorrow evening, Monday, Nov. 6 at Pamela Mashburn’s home at 7pm. We will be discussing *Still Life* by Louise Penny. All are welcome to join, even if you have not read the book! Please RSVP to Pamela 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.

11/8 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women’s Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

11/14 (Tues.) Women’s Gathering with Bishop NICHOLAS, 6-8pm – Join us for food and fellowship with Bishop Nicholas in the fellowship hall! He will give a short talk on fasting at the end of the evening. We hope to see you all before the Nativity fast begins!

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. About once a month we will have an activity related to the Liturgical calendar for the kids to do - some weeks we are meeting with Fr. Philip to ask questions, and most weeks we are just enjoying time together. For now we are using the monthly Liturgical printable from *Ascetic Life of Motherhood* to guide our activities and discussions. Although this is geared toward homeschool families and young kids, any and all are welcome to join us! Please reach out to Heather Hetrick with any questions.

LIBRARY LINES

Today we commemorate Sts. Galaction and his wife Epistemis (11/5). Galaction was raised in the Christian faith and at twenty-four was betrothed to a non-believer. He converted her in time to the Faith, and they decided to live the monastic life. Epistemis was given a vision of a glorious king who gave them crowns. Later Galaction was captured by pagans and taken away for torture. She begged her abbess to be allowed to accompany him, and they both were eventually beheaded. See more about their lives in *Married Saints* (HAG- - MOS) and *Marriage as a Path to Salvation* (HAG- - FOR).

Tuesday, we remember another icon of the Mother of God. The *Joyful Icon* (11/7) appeared on this date in 1795 in Moscow. Unfortunately we know nothing about its history. It looks very much like the *Sweet Kissing* icon, sometimes called *Child Leaping for Joy*. Read more about them and others in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and Prayers for Her Intercessions* (ART ICO KHO).

Wednesday we honor the Synaxis of the Archangels (11/8). Synaxis means a coming together for a specific purpose. Liturgically, it usually describes an assembly to honor someone connected with an event that has just been celebrated. This feast day is in November because we honor nine ranks of angels, and this is the ninth month after March, when the New Year began in ancient times. We commemorate them on the eighth because the dread Day of Judgment is referred to as the Eighth Day when “the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him” (Matthew 25:31). See the St. John Library bulletin board for a brief explanation of their ranks, names and traditions. Read more about angels in *Denys, the Areopagite* (PAT COM DEN), *The Holy Angels* (CAT GEN ALE), *Nicholas Meets His Guardian Angel* (KID CHU IAK), and *Guardian Angel, a Prayerful Contemplation for Each Day* (SPR PRA PUL).

Thursday we commemorate a 20th century saint, St. Nektarios (11/9). *Saint Nektarios of Aegina* (KID STS NEC) devotes many pages to the childhood of the saint. The book lists his miracles and concludes with a hymn to him. *Repentance and Confession* (PAT NEK), written by him, is an instructive, easily read, short discourse on these subjects. It contains several pictures of him and liturgical items he used. See also *Saint Nektarios: the Saint of Our Century* (HAG NEK CHO) and *Story of the Holy Hierarch Nektarios the Wonderworker* (KID STS NEK), and *Man Of God* (HAG NEK SER) a DVD.

This week and next, we honor three lesser known saints who are given the title, “the Merciful”, which show their greatness through humility. St. Martin the Merciful (11/11) and bishop of Tours was a 1st century soldier. We don’t usually think of soldiers as being merciful. St. Martin’s connection to the army was only through duty because his father was in the army. When he asked to be discharged, he was accused of being a coward. His honor was restored and his request was later granted after standing unarmed in the front line. Once, in his travels, he saw a freezing beggar. Thereupon, he cut his cloak in half and gave a half to him. Christ appeared that night to St. Martin wearing his cloak. He is considered the father of monasticism in France, and many Western churches are dedicated to him including St. Martin-in-the Fields in London.