

From the Fathers (and others):

God is not out of date, my brethren, not out of date and not old. He is young, like a young dawn, which every day again reveals His youth. He is young, like young mountain streams, in whose transparent waters the eternal youth of the Creator is reflected.

- *St. Barnabas of Indiana*

As the poor should give thanks to God and love the rich who do them good, even more should the rich give thanks to God and love the poor; for they are saved by the providence of God ... because of their alms.

- *St. Peter Damascene*

No matter how much we may study, it is not possible to come to know God unless we live according to His commandments, for God is not known by science, but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and learned men came to the belief that God exists, but they did not know God. It is one thing to believe that God exists and another to know Him. If someone has come to know God by the Holy Spirit, his soul will burn with love for God day and night, and his soul cannot be bound to any earthly thing.

- *Saint Silouan the Athonite*

By the Cross, the Son of God having become man, accomplished our salvation. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross (Phil. 2:8). Having stretched out His hands upon the Cross, the Saviour with them, as it were, embraced the world, and by His blood shed on it, like a king with red ink, He signed the forgiveness of the human race.

- *St. John Maximovitch*

As we rise daily, let us suppose that we shall not survive till evening, and again, as we prepare for sleep, let us consider that we shall not awaken. By its very nature our life is uncertain, and is meted out daily by Providence. If we think this way, and in this way live - daily - we will not sin.

- *St. Anthony the Great*

We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive.

- *C. S. Lewis*

If but ten among us lead a holy life, we shall kindle a fire which shall light up the entire city.

- *St. John Chrysostom*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ November 12th, 2023 ~

Eighth Sunday of Luke

Commemoration of John the Almsgiver, Patriarch of Alexandria

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

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Anna Pashchinskaya.

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 12 – 19

(Nativity Fast begins Wednesday)

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Parish Pot-luck, following Divine Liturgy
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Parish Council, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch w/Bishop NICHOLAS, 12:00 pm
- Women's Gathering w/Bishop NICHOLAS, 6:00 pm
- Wednesday** **Nativity Fast Begins*
- 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** - Byzantine Chant Class, 4:30 pm
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club, 6:00 pm

Upcoming Enrollments – Nov. 26:

Leighann Pompa
John and Lisa Weaver
Hannah Gibson
Richard and Lucas Luper

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 11/12

St. John, the Merciful: John Curry

Monday, 11/13

Birthday: Matt Spinolo

St. John Chrysostom: Chris Hodges,
John Agnew

Tuesday, 11/14

Apostle Philip: Fr. Philip, Philip McKelroy
Gregory Palamas: Travis Harms

Wednesday, 11/15

Birthday: Michael Elliott

Thursday, 11/16

Apostle Matthew: Matthew Yadron, Matt Spinolo

Friday, 11/17

Birthday: Tina McKelvy, Andrew Sanderlin

Saturday, 11/18

Birthday: Cash Wallace

Commemorations

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.

Nov. 13: John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable-martyrs Damaskinos and Damian of the Great Lavra on Athos.

Nov. 14: Apostle Philip; Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonika; New-martyr Constantine of Hydra; Justinian the emperor and his wife Theodora.

Nov. 15: Martyrs Gourias, Samonas and Habib of Edessa; Thomas the New, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Paisios Velichkovsky.

Nov. 16: Apostle Matthew the Evangelist; Martyr Ephygenia.

Nov. 17: Gregory the wonder-worker, bishop of New-Caesarea; Gennadios, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable Nikon, disciple of Sergios of Radonezh.

Nov. 18: Martyrs Platon of Ancyra, Ramanos, Zacchaeos the deacon and Anastasios of Caesarea in Palestine.

Nov. 19: Prophet Obadiah; Martyrs Agapios, Azi of Isauria, Barlaam of Caesarea in Cappadocia, Heliodoros of Thessalonika and Euphemia; Venerable Barlaam and Joasaph; Venerable Barlaam of the Kiev Caves.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	2 Corinthians	9:6-11	Luke	10:25-37
Monday	Hebrews	7:26-28, 8:1-2	John	10:9-16
Tuesday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	John	1:43-51
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians	4:1-12	Luke	15:1-10
Thursday	Romans	10:11-21; 11:1-2	Matthew	9:9-13
Friday	1 Corinthians	12:7-11	Luke	16:15-18; 17:1-4
Saturday	2 Corinthians	11:1-6	Luke	9:57-62
Sunday	Ephesians	2:14-22	Luke	12:16-21

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



Welcome Bishop NICHOLAS! – We are blessed to have His Grace with us this weekend. As St. Ignatius says, “If the prayer of one or two individuals has such efficacy, how much more powerful is that of the bishop together with his whole church.” Many years, Master!

Today:

Parish Pot-Luck Following the Divine Liturgy
2:00-4:00 pm - Teen Event w/ Bishop NICHOLAS

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)

Parish Pot-luck Today! – We will share a Pot-luck Feast together after Divine Liturgy today!

The NATIVITY FAST begins this Wednesday.

The Nativity Fast is divided into two periods. The 1st period is November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The 2nd period is December 20th through 24th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

Orthodoxy 101 will next meet on Tuesday, November 28th, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Holy Trinity*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Parish Council Update

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday, November 13. Thank you to those who have filled out the pledge card and talent survey. If you have not already done so, please consider doing that today! The more responses we receive the better we will be able to plan for the next year. The big item on the council agenda will be to begin to finalize the budget for 2024. May God grant wisdom and discernment moving forward!

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 next 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 – Our tickets have all been claimed. If you would still like to go, let Ted (ted@stjohnmemphis.org) know and we'll get you on a waitlist. If we're able to get more tickets with our group or if someone is no longer able to go, we'll fill you in! Tickets are \$25. 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, 11/12 - Parish Pot-Luck after Liturgy
Bishop NICHOLAS Visit & Bowling @Main Event, 2-4pm

Next Week:

Sunday, 11/19 - Service Project – Pass out Thanksgiving Meals to the Hungry, 1-3pm
(Lunch Provided)

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, 11/26 - Discussion & Donuts / St. Nicholas Play Logistics, 12:30-2:30pm
(Lunch Provided)

Parish Grizzlies Game, 5pm

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

11/14 (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!

11/15 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

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

St. John the Merciful (11/12) was a husband and father in 7th century Cyprus. After his family died, he became a monk. He was well loved and respected for his charity and wisdom. Once a beggar received alms from him and then changed clothes in effort to deceive him and receive more. The saint gave it to him anyway, saying that perhaps Christ was testing him. Another time, while celebrating Liturgy he left the altar when he remembered a fellow clergyman who was angry with him. St. John was greatly loved for dealing with misdeeds by others with wisdom and mercy. Read more about him in *Encyclopedia of the Major Saints and Fathers* (HAG- -ELE), *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG- -MOS), and *Orthodox Saints*, October-December (HAG- -POU).

Sunday, we commemorate another St. John. Blessed John the Hairy and Fool-for-Christ (11/12) lived during the 14th century in Rostov in what is now Azerbaijan. He was homeless, sometimes taking shelter with his spiritual father or one of the elderly widows. Although poor, he gave spiritual riches to

those in need. He was called "the hairy" because of possessing a very full head of hair and "the Merciful" because of healings at his grave.

St. John Chrysostom (11/13) loved learning from early in his life. He was ordained to the priesthood in 386 and earned his reputation as the "Golden Mouth" for his speeches. However, he was also a prolific writer. See St. John Library's *Commentary on the Psalms* (REF PAT COM JOH), *Daily Readings from the Writings of St. John Chrysostom* (PAT JOH), *Eight Sermons of the Book of Genesis* (PAT JOH), *Gospel Commentary* (REF SCR COM CHR), *On Marriage and Family Life* (PAT JOH), and *Fathers of the Church* (REF PAT JOH). He died on 9/13 and is also commemorated on 1/27 and 1/30.

We all know that the apostles scattered to the ends of the known earth after Christ's Resurrection and were all martyred except one. However, we are not very familiar with the details of their lives during Christ's lifetime. The Apostle Philip (11/14) brought St. Bartholomew (Nathaniel) to Christ. Jesus asked him where to buy the bread for the 5,000. And, he asked Christ at the Last Supper to show them the Father. He was martyred in what is now modern-day Turkey. Read more about him in *Notes on the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - - - MAS), *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR), and *Christ In His Saints* (HAG- - -REA).

Tuesday we honor another St. Gregory, this time Palamas (11/14). As with many saints, he came from a pious family. He diligently studied the desert fathers and immersed himself in hesychasm, or prayer of the heart. Through his oratory the Constantinople Council of 1341 affirmed his teaching that God is unknowable in His Essence but reveals Himself through His immaterial and uncreated Energies. See his books in St. John Library – *The Homilies of Gregory Palamas*, *The Homilies*, *On the Saints*, and *The Saving Work of Christ*. The spine code for them all is PAT GRE.

The Emperor Justinian and his wife Theodora (11/14) are famous for their military victories and the support and spread of Orthodoxy. He took great interest in the rigorous education of priests and monastics. During his reign, the hymn "Only begotten Son and Immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation..." was composed, and he ordered it to be sung in all the churches to combat heresy. He built the monastery at Sinai and the Hagia Sophia, and he also convened the Fifth Ecumenical Council in 553 which reaffirmed the nature of Christ. Read more about them in *Rulers of Nations / Servants of Christ* (HAG - - - BOB), *Orthodox Saints* (HAG - - - POU).

Thursday we commemorate St. Matthew (11/16), one of the Twelve and the writer of the first book in the New Testament. Although hated by his fellow Jews because he was a tax collector, he obeyed the call of Christ and generously repaid those he had cheated. His writing shows us Jesus as the Messiah, Lord of the universe, and the High Priestly Sacrifice. He tells of the Kingdom of God in Jesus's own words. After Pentecost, the apostle Matthew preached in Palestine for several years. At the request of the Jewish converts, he wrote his Gospel before leaving for Ethiopia where he was martyred. He found the country inhabited by cannibals who worshipped idols. While asking God for the salvation of the Ethiopians, Christ appeared to him in the form of a youth and gave him a staff. He told him to plant it at the doors of a church he had founded. There Matthew was met by relatives of the ruler Fulvian. He healed them, but Fulvian accused Matthew of sorcery and gave orders for his execution. His body remained unharmed, and he gave his soul to the Lord. Although Fulvian repented, he still had doubts and ordered Matthew's body to be placed in an iron coffin and thrown into the sea. The waves carried the coffin to the shores by the church. Fulvian begged the apostle's forgiveness, was baptized and given the name Matthew. Read more about his life in *The Notes on the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG MAS), *Meet the Evangelists* (KID STS KHO), and *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR).