

From the Fathers (and others):

...a man surrounded by the frailty of the flesh cannot cling totally to God or be joined to Him in unbroken contemplation. Yet we certainly need to know the direction in which our mind must always go. We must be aware of the destination toward which we must always summon our spirit. And whenever the mind can succeed in this let it rejoice, and whenever it is distracted let it grieve and sigh, knowing that as often as it is turned aside from contemplation it has been cut off from the ultimate good, knowing that to veer for even a moment from beholding Christ is to be guilty of impurity. When our gaze has wandered even a little from Christ let us immediately turn the eyes of our heart back to Him and let our vision be directed to Him as though along the straightest line.

- *St. John Cassian*

One and the same grace is from the Father in the Son, as the light of the sun and of the radiance is one, and as the sun's illumination is effected through the radiance; and so too when he prays for the Thessalonians, St. Paul in saying, 'Now God Himself even our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, may He direct our way to you' (I Thes. 3:11), has guarded the unity of the Father and of the Son. For he has not said, 'May they direct,' as if a double grace were given from two Sources, This and That, but 'May He direct,' to show that the Father gives it through the Son.

- *St. Athanasius*

The Cross of the Lord was the instrument by which He saved the world after the fall into sin. Through the Cross, He descended with His soul into hell so as to raise up from it the souls who were awaiting Him. By the Cross, Christ opened the doors of paradise which had been closed after our first ancestors had been banished from it. The Cross was sanctified by the Body of Christ which was nailed to it when He gave Himself over to torments and death for the salvation of the world, and it itself was then filled with life-giving power. By the Cross on Golgotha, the prince of this world was cast out (John 12:31) and an end was put to his authority. The weapon by which he was crushed became the sign of Christ's victory.

- *St. John Maximovitch*

The thanksgiving of the one, who receives, arouses the one who gives so that the latter may give greater gifts compared to what he had previously given.

- *St. Isaac the Syrian*

Within our daily lives, if we confront the day with thanksgiving, the Cross will quickly reveal itself. The first moment that the giving of thanks becomes difficult, we have reached the wood of the Cross itself. We stand in the very gates of Hades. If, in that moment of difficulty, we persist in giving thanks, then Hades trembles and the dead are raised.

- *Fr. Stephen Freeman*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ November 19th, 2023 ~

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Ninth 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

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

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

November 19 – 26

(Nativity Fast)

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club, 6:00 pm
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Orthros for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, 5:00 pm
- Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, 6:00 pm
- Tuesday** - ***The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple***
- 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 This Week**
***No Bible Study This Week**
- Thursday** - **Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**
- Friday** - **Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**
- Saturday** - Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Parish Grizzlies Game, 5:00 pm

Upcoming Enrollments – Nov. 26:

Leighann Pompa
John and Lisa Weaver
Hannah Gibson
Richard and Lucas Luper
Michael Pritchett
Taylor Tawbush

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 11/19

None

Monday, 11/20

Birthday: Karen Bell, Lynda Spinolo
St. Edmund, the Martyr: Edmund Knight

Tuesday, 11/21

None

Wednesday, 11/22

Birthday: Alex Mansour

Thursday, 11/23

None

Friday, 11/24

None

Saturday, 11/25

St. Katherine the Great: Kh. Kathryn, Caitlyn Maas, Ava Ortwein, Erika Parr, Katelyn Shleweet, Katherine Verbist, Sophie Harms, Kate Kumar, Isabelle Mansour, Cailyn Ratliff, Kathryn McWhorter, Katie Yadron, Cathy van Drimmelen

Commemorations

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.

Nov. 20: Gregory of Decapolis; Proclos, Maximos and Anatolios, patriarchs of Constantinople; Venerable Sozomen the wonder-worker.

Nov. 21: The Entrance of the Theotokos into the temple. Venerable Columban of Ireland.

Nov. 22: Apostles Philemon, Apphia, Archippos and Onesimos of the Seventy; Clement, bishop of Ochrid and enlightener of Bulgaria; Hieromartyr Sisinius; Venerable Kallistos Xanthopoulos of Athos; Martyr Michael, prince of Tver.

Nov. 23: Gregory, bishop of Agrigentum; Amphilokios, bishop of Iconium; Ischyriion, bishop in Egypt and hermit of Sketis; Venerable Sisinius the Confessor of Kyzikos; Dionysios, patriarch of Constantinople; repose of Alexander Nevsky, prince of Novgorod; Metrophanes, first bishop of Voronezh.

Nov. 24: Clement, pope of Rome; Hieromartyrs Peter, archbishop of Alexandria, and Hermogenes, bishop of Agrigentum; Martyrs Philomenos and Alexander of Corinth.

Nov. 25: Great-martyrs Katherine the all-wise of Alexandria and Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk.

Nov. 26: Venerable Alypios the Stylite, Stylianos of Paphlagonia and Nikon the preacher of repentance; New-martyr George of Chios; repose of Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Ephesians	2:14-22	Luke	12:16-21
Monday	2 Thessalonians	1:1-10	Luke	17:20-25
Tuesday	Hebrews	9:1-7	Luke	10:38-42; 11:27-28
Wednesday	Philemon	1:1-25	Luke	18:15-17, 26-30
Thursday	2 Thessalonians	2:13-17; 3:1-5	Luke	18:31-34
Friday	Philippians	3:20-21; 4:1-3	Luke	19:12-28
Saturday	Galatians	3:23-29; 4:1-5	Mark	5:24-34
Sunday	Ephesians	4:1-7	Luke	18:18-27

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; 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 & 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 Fr. David, Kh. Nora and the Bleam family! Fr. David is the pastor of St. Andrew in Pensacola, FL. Kh. Nora is the Diocesan Choir Director for our Diocese. We are pleased to have them visiting with our community this weekend!

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

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.

Nativity Play Help Needed! If you would like to help organize our annual Nativity Play, please speak with Fr. Philip. Thank you!

Parish Council Update – The council met on Monday, November 13. The first draft of the budget for 2024 was discussed, including an increase in our payment to our mortgage. In addition, a pre-Lenten retreat was discussed and will be announced soon! 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. 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 tomorrow, Nov. 20 & next 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.

Fr. Philip Out of the Office – Fr. Philip will be out of town this week. We will hold Third Hour and Vespers services on Wednesday, November 22, but no teachings. The church will also be closed this Thursday & Friday, November 23-24, in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. May you have a blessed holiday!

The NATIVITY FAST began November 15.

The Nativity Fast grows in strictness as the Nativity approaches. From November 15th through December 12th the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis (relaxation of the fast) for fish, wine and oil on every day except for Wednesdays and Fridays. From December 13th to 19th, the katalysis is only for wine and oil on Tuesday and Thursday and fish, wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday. From December 20th through 24th the traditional discipline is observed with katalysis for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

Parish Grizzlies Game Next Sunday – 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.

2024 Calendars

2024 calendars have arrived and 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.

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. Nicholas Play



On the evening of Sunday, December 3, our teens will present a short play on the life of St. Nicholas at 5:30pm. Doors will open at 5:00pm. As is our tradition, we will collect gifts from the children for the Neighborhood Christian Center Christmas store. **Gifts should be new and not wrapped.** All are welcome to bring (fasting) treats to share during a reception following the play. **Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas** will be held on the morning of Wednesday, December 6, at 9:00am.

St. John Youth

Today: Sunday, 11/19 -	Service Project – Pass out Thanksgiving Meals to the Hungry, 1-3pm (Lunch Provided)
Next Week: Sunday, 11/26 -	Discussion & Donuts / St. Nicholas Play Logistics, 12:30-2:30pm (Lunch Provided) Parish Grizzlies Game, 5pm
Looking Ahead: Saturday, 12/2 - Sunday, 12/3 -	St. Nicholas Play Rehearsal (Dinner Provided), 6:45-8:30pm St. Nicholas Play Rehearsal (Lunch Provided), 12:30-2:00pm St. Nicholas Play Final Run-Through for Play Participants, 4:30pm St. Nicholas Festivities, 5-7pm

Women of St. John Calendar

***No Women's Teaching This Week**

11/29 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet via Zoom next 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

The prophet Obadiah (11/19), a faithful servant of God, was a steward in the house of the idolatrous King Ahab. Obadiah healed one of three groups of soldiers sent by Queen Jezebel to arrest the Prophet Elias. Heavenly fire consumed two of the detachments, but Obadiah and his men were spared through the intercession of Elias. Thereupon, Obadiah resigned his position and became a disciple of the Holy Prophet. His life is recounted in the first and second books of Kings, and his prophecy is included in the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament. Read more about him in *Lives of the Holy Prophets* (REF HAG HOL).

Tuesday we commemorate the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple (Nov 21). Many of us came from backgrounds in which this feast was not only entirely unknown but also unimaginable. The High Priest, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, led her into the Holy of Holies, much to the astonishment of all. After her Presentation in the Temple, the Theotokos lived there until her adulthood. She, along with others who were dedicated to the service of the Lord, lived in quarters set aside for them. St. Jerome says that how she spent her time is known only to God and the Archangel Gabriel. But, Tradition says she and the other virgins prayed, read Scripture and engaged in needlework. The Church has celebrated this feast since the first centuries A.D. Read more about her and this feast in *The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple* (KID CHU ELA), *The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos* (KID STS MAR), *The Story of Mary, the Mother of God* (KID STS MAR), *The Life of the Virgin Mary* (REF HAG - - - HOL), and the many other books on her life in St. John Library.

Wednesday, we honor another apostle. Philemon was one of the Seventy, and he and his servant, St. Onesimus, were recipients of the Epistle *Philemon* from St. Paul. The apostle and his wife, Apphia, offered their house to the Christian community as a meeting place for the church. They met a martyr's death during the persecution of Nero.

From early childhood, St. Katherine (11/25) was recognized for her intellect and was instructed by her mother's spiritual father. When grown, she refused marriage and sought to unite herself to her heavenly Bridegroom. She boldly and eloquently defended her Faith before Emperor Maximian, was tortured and martyred in 305 with 200 others who professed Christ because of her courageous testimony. Read more about her in *The Life and Sufferings of St. Katherine* (HAG KAT PAP), *Grandmother's Spiritual Stories* (KID STS HRO), *The Broken Wheel* (KID STS KAT), and *Christina's Favorite Saints* (KID STS KHO).

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS FOR ADVENT!

- *Apodictic Treatises of the Procession of the Holy Spirit* by St. Gregory Palamas (PAT GRE)
- *Behold a Great Light: a Daily Devotional for the Nativity Fast through Theophany* (CAT CAL DEY)
- *Glorified in America: Laborers in the New World from Saint Alexis to Elder Ephraim* (HAG - - -HOL) Chapters on saints who were instrumental in the spread of Orthodoxy in America. Photographs included.
- *Goodnight, Child of God* (KID CHU CHA) Board book for young children that assures them of the presence of God as they fall asleep.
- *Saint Sergius: a Beacon in the Wilderness of Radonezh* (KID STS SER)
- *You Are an Orthodox Christian* (KID STS SAW)