

## From the Fathers (and others):

Let's also listen to our Lord who says: the demons can come out only by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21). If he brings us incongruous thoughts into our spiritual work and anything else that hinders the salvation of our souls, we must fight him with the saving prayer within us, in our mind, with "Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me!" "Most Holy Mother of God, help me!"

- *St. Paisios the Athonite*

Self-indulgence takes many forms. A man may be self-indulgent in speech, in touch, in sight. From self-indulgence, a man comes to idle speech and worldly talk, to buffonery and cracking indecent jokes. There is self-indulgence in touching without necessity, making mocking signs with the hands, pushing for a place, snatching up something for oneself, approaching someone else shamelessly. All these things come from not having the fear of God in the soul and from these a man comes little by little to perfect contempt.

- *St. Dorotheos of Gaza*

Be careful with your mouth, but primarily with your mind; do not let evil thoughts start talking to you. Do not let your mouth say words that could perhaps wound your brother. Let your mouth put forth words which are fragrant: words of consolation, courage and hope. It is a person's mouth that reveals his interior, inner man.

- *Elder Ephraim*

Everyone who believes in the Savior must necessarily acknowledge and confess his fall and his state of exile on earth; he must acknowledge and confess it by his actual life so that his acknowledgement and confession may be living and effective, and not dead and ineffectual.

- *St. Ignatius Brianchaninov*

You cannot acquire the gift of peace if by your anger you destroy the peace of The Lord.

- *St. Gregory the Great*

The Fathers have declared the singing of psalms to be a weapon, prayer to be a wall, and honest tears to be a bath ... without which no one subject to passions will see the Lord.

- *St. John Climacus*

In the spiritual life we can do nothing worthy without repentance, but the Lord has much mercy on us because of our intentions. He who compels himself and holds on to repentance until the end, even if he sins, is saved because he compelled himself, for the Lord promised this in the Gospel.

- *St. Mark the Ascetic*

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

---



---

~ November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~

***Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost***

*Thirteenth 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

## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Epistle:** Ephesians 4:1-7

**Gospel:** Luke 18:18-27

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Karen Bell.

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 26 – December 3

(Nativity Fast)

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am  
- Parish Grizzlies Game, 5:00 pm
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am  
- Advent Paraklesis, 6:00 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** - Byzantine Chant Class, 4:30 pm  
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am  
- St. Nicholas Play, 5:00 pm

### Today's Enrollments:

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

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

### **Sunday, 11/26**

*Anniversary:* Matt & Lynda Spinolo

### **Monday, 11/27**

*Birthday:* Giancarlo Yzaguirre,  
Katie Yadron

### **Tuesday, 11/28**

*Birthday:* Luree Pfeister

### **Wednesday, 11/29**

*Birthday:* Jeff Bennett, Adrian Kumar  
*Anniversary:* Bill & Terry Harter

### **Thursday, 11/30**

*Birthday:* Mawusi McKelroy  
*Andrew the First Called:* Andrew Sanderlin; Elijah Brackey; Andrew Labonte; Andrew Yadron; Andrew Mitchell; Drew Garrison; Andrew McKelroy; Rod Ratliff; Ryan Adams

### **Friday, 12/1**

*None*

### **Saturday, 12/2**

*None*

## Commemorations

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

**Nov. 27:** Great-martyr James the Persian; Venerable Palladios of Thessalonika; Venerable Nathanael of Nitria; James, bishop of Rostov.

**Nov. 28:** Venerable-martyr Stephen the New; Martyr Irinarchos of Sebaste and those with him.

**Nov. 29:** Martyrs Paramon of Bithynia and Philoumenos of Ancyra; Venerable Akakios of Sinai; Hieromartyr Dionysios, bishop of Corinth; Urban, bishop of Macedonia; Nicholas, archbishop of Thessalonika.

**Nov. 30:** Apostle Andrew the First-Called; Frumentios, archbishop and enlightener of Ethiopia; Alexander, bishop of Methymna.

**December 1:** Prophet Nahum; Venerable Philaretos the merciful of Amnia; Martyr Ananias the Persian; Theoklitos, archbishop of Lakedaimonia.

**December 2:** Prophet Habakkuk; Martyrs Abibos the New and Myrope of Chios; Venerable Theophilos and Andrew of Egypt; Urosh, Serbian king; Venerable Ioanikios of Devitch, Porphyrios (Bairaktaris) of Kafsokalivia.

**December 3:** Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonios); Martyrs Agapios and Seleukos; New-martyr Angelis of Chios; Venerable Theodoulos of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Gabriel, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Cosmas of St. Anne skete on Athos; Venerable Sabbas of Zvenigorod, disciple of Sergios of Radonezh.

---

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Ephesians	4:1-7	Luke	18:18-27
Monday	1 Timothy	1:1-7	Luke	19:37-44
Tuesday	1 Timothy	1:8-14	Luke	19:45-48
Wednesday	1 Timothy	1:18-20; 2:8-15	Luke	20:1-8
Thursday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	John	1:35-51
Friday	1 Timothy	4:4-8, 16	Luke	20:19-26
Saturday	Galatians	3:8-12	Luke	12:32-40
Sunday	Ephesians	5:8-19	Luke	18:35-43

---

### 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; Leighann Pompa; John & Lisa Weaver; Hannah Gibson; Richard & Lucas Luper; Michael Pritchett; Taylor Tawbush

**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



**Parish Grizzlies Game Today!** – If you reserved a ticket for the Grizz game and it has not been transferred to you yet, please talk to Ted before leaving church today. See you at the game! Go Grizz!

**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.

**Choir Rehearsal** – The next choir rehearsal will be this Tuesday, November 28th, at 7pm.

### St. Nicholas Play – Next Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5-7pm

Our St. Nicholas festivities will take place next Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our youth group will put on their annual St. Nicholas Play at 5:30pm with a reception to follow. Doors open at 5:00pm. Please bring a new & unwrapped toy to donate and a fast-friendly dessert to share!

### Byzantine Chant Class – Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Our next Byzantine Chant class is Saturday, December 2, 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!

**St. Jude Marathon – Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – The annual St. Jude Marathon full marathon participants will be racing by the church this coming Saturday if you would like to cheer them on!! We have some church members participating in all distance races. For road closures, race course maps, and racer information visit: <https://www.stjude.org/marathon>

**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** – St. John's is signed up to host Room in the Inn tomorrow, Monday, November 27th, to help families with children who continue to find themselves homeless in Memphis each week. 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](mailto:thea.wallace@yahoo.com) or 404-408-3292 if you have any questions.

**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.

### 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.

## 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.



## 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, 11/26 -

St. Nicholas Play Logistics, 12:00-12:15pm  
Parish Grizzlies Game, 5pm

#### Next Week:

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

**11/29 (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. Innocent of Irkutsk (11/26) began his career as a professor of theology and received an appointment as a naval chaplain. In 1710, he was tonsured as a monk. He was consecrated as a bishop in 1721 and attached to a mission in China although denied entrance to the country by the civil authorities. He served his people from the border under harsh living conditions and concentrated his efforts on two schools which he opened. Due to the severe climate and illnesses, he reposed at age 51. Ironically, his relics were removed from their shrine after the Russian Revolution. They were taken to a museum and displayed as “mummified remains of an unknown man.” Today they are venerated by the faithful in Irkutsk. For more information, see *New Apostles of Christ* (HAG - - - HAT) and *Recently Canonized Orthodox Saints* (HAG - - - DEV).

St. Alypius (11/26) is one of several saints considered “fools-for Christ.” He yearned for the solitary life from his youth but was not given the blessing to live so. Once on a journey, he had a vision of St. Euphemia. She directed him to build a church in her honor, and he did so. There, he erected a pillar and spent a life of prayer and teaching for the next fifty-three years. He reposed in 640. For more on fools-for-Christ, see *The Freedom of Morality* (CAT GEN YAN), *The Inner Kingdom* (CAT GEN WAR), *Crazy John* (BIO JOH MAK), and *The God-Possessed* (HAG- - -LAC).

The Apostle Andrew (11/30) was the First-Called disciple, although not in the “inner circle.” He was devout from his youth and chose to never marry. He and St. John the Theologian were originally disciples of John the Baptist. Upon hearing the Forerunner proclaim, “Behold the Lamb of God!” Andrew immediately followed Christ and brought his brother Peter to Him. After Pentecost, he traveled through Asia Minor into what is now Russia. He was martyred by crucifixion, being tied instead of nailed to a cross to prolong his suffering. See more about him in *Christ in His Saints* (HAG - - - REA). Read to your children about him from *The Cross on the Hill* (KID STS AND) and *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR).

In December we honor several Old Testament saints, including the Minor Prophets. Friday we honor the Prophet Nahum (12/1). He is perhaps the least known of the Minor Prophets. The short book is considered to be a masterpiece of literature; partially because of his powerful, short sentences and word-pictures. He treats his readers with alliteration and rare idioms. His writing did not call Israel to repentance nor condemn the nation for her infidelity; however, he prophesied the destruction of Nineveh after the city forgot God’s warning 200 years ago from Jonah. His intercessions are asked for those with mental illnesses, perhaps in keeping with his name which means “full of consolation or comfort.”

The prophet Habakkuk (12/2) prophesied the destruction of the Temple, the Babylonian captivity and the birth of Christ. He had fled the Holy Land during the Babylonian war, but he was taken back there by an angel and ministered to the imprisoned Prophet Daniel. He is perhaps one of the most well-known Minor Prophets to us; on every Pascha we sing of him and his message of hope in Christ.

Saint Myrope (12/2) lived in the third century. Her devotion and loyalty led to her martyrdom and, as frequently occurs, her own martyrdom led to the salvation and martyrdom of others. After the pious soldier, Isidore, was killed for his faith, guards were posted to keep Christians from taking his body. Under darkness, Myrope removed and buried it. When the guards were threatened with torture for failing to perform their duty, Myrope compassionately admitted taking the body and was martyred. One of her guards related her story to a priest, was baptized and later martyred.