

From the Fathers (and others):

.. the saints are the instruments of the Holy Spirit, having received the same energy as He has. As certain proof of what I say, one might cite the charisms of healing, the working of miracles, foreknowledge, the irrefutable wisdom which the Lord called 'the Spirit of your Father' (Mt. 10:20), and also the sanctifying bestowal of the Spirit which those sanctified with these gifts receive from and through them. Thus, God said to Moses, 'I shall take the spirit which is on you and put it on them' (Num. 11:17); similarly, 'when Paul laid his hands' on the twelve Ephesians, 'the Holy Spirit came upon them', and at once 'they spoke in tongues and prophesied' (Acts 19:6).

- *St. Gregory Palamas*

Continue along your path. The devil will come with his tempting thoughts and will tug at your sleeve, so as to disorient you. Don't turn to him, don't start a conversation with him, and don't oppose him. In this way the devil will get bored and will leave you alone.

- *Elder Porphyrios*

Recognize to Whom you owe the fact that you exist, that you breathe, that you understand, that you are wise, and above all, that you know God and hope for the kingdom of heaven...What benefactor has enabled you to look out on the beauty of the sky, the sun in its course, the circle of the moon, the countless numbers of stars, with the harmony and order which are theirs like the music of a harp? Who has blessed you with rain, with the art of husbandry, with different kinds of food, with the arts, with houses, with laws, with states, with a life of humanity and culture, with friendship and the easy familiarity of kinship?.Is it not God Who asks you now in your turn to show yourself generous above all other creatures and for the sake of other creatures? Because we have received from Him so many wonderful gifts, will we not be ashamed to refuse Him this one only, our generosity?

- *Saint Gregory the Theologian*

They're silent out of indifference... In these difficult days each must do what's in their power. And leave what's out of their power to the will of God. In this way our conscience will be clear.

- *St. Paisios of Mt. Athos*

What is the spiritual battle? Well, the soul is a garden divided into two parts. On one half are planted thorny bushes, and on the other half, flowers. We also have a water pump with two taps and two channels. The one guides the water to the thorns and the other to the flowers. I always have the choice to open one or the other tap. I leave the thorns without water and they dry up, I water the flowers and they blossom.

- *Elder Porphyrios*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ May 12th, 2024 ~
Thomas Sunday

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 John 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

Thomas Sunday

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

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

May 12 – 19

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
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am
- Vespers, 6:00 pm

Thursday - Third Hour, 9:00 am

Friday - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Sixth Hour, 12:00 pm
- AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6:00 pm

Saturday - Lincoln Spearman Baptism, 4:00 pm
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm

Sunday - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

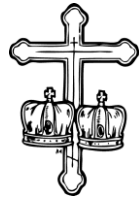
Today's Churching:
Ioana and Julia Rustom

Today's Enrollment:
Matthew Henthorn

Upcoming Baptism - May 18 at 4:00pm:
Lincoln Spearman

Upcoming Enrollment - May 19:
Pierce Browning

Upcoming Marriages:
June 1 at 3:00pm
Marlene Middleton & Maximilian Conrad
June 8 at 4:00pm
Mary Elise O'Brien & Joe Loughran



Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 5/12

Birthday: David Twombly
Apostle Thomas: Thomas Cameron,
Jeff Sanders, Thomas Yadron

Monday, 5/13

St. Glyceria: Melissa White
Anniversary: David & Margie Yarbrow

Tuesday, 5/14

None

Wednesday, 5/15

Birthday: Katelyn Shleweet
Anniversary: Jay & Janna Knight

Thursday, 5/16

Birthday: Asad Sweidan
St. Brendan: William Maas
Anniversary: Mitch & Sandy Childress

Friday, 5/17

Birthday: Buddy Bowick

Saturday, 5/18

Birthday: Jeff Boone

Commemorations

May 12: Germanos, patriarch of Constantinople, Epiphanius, bishop of Cyprus; Venerable Theodore of Kythera; New-martyr John of Wallachia; Hermogenes, patriarch of Moscow.

May 13: Virgin-martyr Glykeria of Heraklea; Sergios the Confessor; Venerable John the Georgian, founder of Iviron monastery on Athos and Venerable Euthymios, George and Gabriel of Iviron monastery; Venerable-martyrs of Iviron monastery.

May 14: Martyr Isidore of Chios; Hieromartyr Therapont; New-martyrs John of Bulgaria and Mark of Crete; Venerable Isidore of Rostov, fool-for-Christ.

May 15: Achilles, bishop of Larisa; Venerable Pachomios the Great; Martyr Barbaros the myrrh-streaming of Corfu; Isaiah, bishop of Rostov; Andrew the hermit; Titos, bishop of Crete; Demetrius, prince of Moscow.

May 16: Venerable Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of Pachomios the Great; Alexander, archbishop of Jerusalem; New-martyr Nicholas of Metsov; Venerable Ephraim of Perekop, wonder-worker of Novogorod.

May 17: Apostle Andronikos and Junia of the Seventy; Anthanasios the New, bishop of Christianopolis; Venerable Nektarios and Theophanes.

May 18: Martyrs Peter, Dionysios, Andrew, Paul, Christina, Heraklios, Paulinos and Benedimos; Stephen the New, patriarch of Constantinople.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Acts	5:12-20	John	20:19-31
Monday	Acts	3:19-26	John	2:1-11
Tuesday	Acts	4:1-10	John	3:16-21
Wednesday	Acts	4:13-22	John	5:17-24
Thursday	Acts	4:23-31	John	5:24-30
Friday	Acts	5:1-11	John	5:30-47; 6:1-2
Saturday	Acts	5:21-32	John	6:14-27
Sunday	Acts	6:1-7	Mark	15:43-47; 16:1-8

Remember in Your Prayers

Our catechumens: Jeff Bennett; Ben Haag; Billy & Stacey Murray; John & Lisa Weaver; Hannah Gibson; Richard & Lucas Luper; Michael Pritchett; Taylor Tawbush; Kyle, Jane, Isla & Lachlan Esposito; Michael Youngblood; Ronald Coleman; Brandon Daley; D.J. Hobbs; Alex Fleming; Matthew Shanklin

Prayer Requests: Mother Raphaela; Schemamonk Paul; Dianna Hildebrand; Fr. Don & Martha Berge; Jack Turner & family; Vicky (Maggie Harms's mom); Bill Stanek & family; Ken Alvis (Dianna Hildebrand's brother); Mary Elliott & family; Chris Hodges; Mickey Hodges; St. Nicholas Orthodox Church; St. Paul Orthodox Mission; Samuel Brownlow; Elizabeth Turner (Jack's mother); Aleksandra Klimkowski & family; Shawn McClenny (Miriam Redmond's brother-in-law); Stephen Hill (Nicholas Hill's brother) & family; Xander Moody (David & Rose McGee's nephew) & family; those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Expecting: Heather Hetrick, Courtney Hagemeier, Aryanna Smith

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Happy Mother's Day! To those who are celebrating the joy of motherhood, or enduring the hardships of motherhood; to those who long to be mothers and are bearing the burden of infertility; to those who mourn the loss of children, born and unborn; to those who are remembering their own mothers in simple or complicated ways; and to those missing their mothers today, God be with you!

Orthodoxy 101 will next meet Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm. The topic will be *Orthodox Eschatology*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Parish Council Update – The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Tuesday, May 14 at 7pm. After a busy month of Lent and Pascha, the Council will return to the business of the Church looking ahead to summer. If you have particular items that you would like the council to discuss, please see Fr. Philip or a council member.

Notes Post-Pascha

During the Pascha season:

- Say "Christ is Risen" as many times as you can!
- During this season we do not begin our prayers with the usual "O Heavenly King...." We wait until the Feast of Pentecost to begin our prayers that way again. Instead, we pray "Christ is Risen from the dead..." (3x) in its place.
- During this season, fasting is also relaxed. There are some traditions (including the Patriarchate of Antioch), that do not resume fasting until after the Leave-Taking of Pascha (June 12). Other traditions resume fasting on Wednesday and Friday after Bright Week, but with a relaxation for wine and oil on those days. You will see both practices in the parish and on the internet.

Mercy Meals for the Berge Family – Fr. Don Berge was released from the hospital on Wednesday. Please sign up on the link on the parish emails if you would like to volunteer to provide a meal for the family. May God grant Fr. Don a quick recovery!

AWSJ Knitting Circle – The AWSJ Knitting Circle will meet at 6pm on Friday, May 17th 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!

The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club will meet at the church at 6pm on Sunday, June 2, to discuss *A Canticle for Leibowitz* by Walter Miller. Please bring food and drink to share.

Memphis Redbirds Parish Outing - Save the Date for Sunday, June 2. The game begins at 1:05 pm. Tickets are \$15 each and can be reserved by reaching out to Ted (ted@stjohnmemphis.org).

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.

Lost, Found, & Left – Please be sure to check the hall for items leftover from Pascha. There are dishes, water bottles, toys, jackets, umbrellas, etc. all waiting to go home with you!



Many thanks to our Volunteers!

Many sincere thanks to all of the helpful hands and volunteers leading up to, and during, Holy Week and Bright Week! Your contributions made our Pascha Season a beautiful one!

St. John Youth

Today:

Thomas Sunday, 5/12 - No Youth Group (Ted Away)

Next Week:

Sunday, 5/19 - Boys to hand out flowers to all women of St. John for Myrrh Bearing Women Sunday, 9-10:15am
Service Project – Sandwiches & Pascha cards for the Homeless (Lunch Provided), 12:45-2:45pm

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, 5/26 - Discussion & Donuts (Lunch Provided), 12:30-2:30pm
Sunday, 6/2 - Memphis Redbirds Game, 1:05pm
Tuesday, 6/4 - Middle School Brunch & Escape Room, Time TBD
Sunday, 6/9 - Lunch @ Someone's Home, 1:30-3:30pm
Sunday, 6/16 - No Youth Group
Thursday, 6/20 - High School Brunch & Escape Room, Time TBD
Sunday, 6/23 - Service Project TBD

Women of St. John Calendar

5/15 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

5/17 (Fri.) AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6pm – The AWSJ Knitting Circle will meet at 6pm on Friday, May 17th 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!

LIBRARY LINES

Today we honor St. Thomas who is remembered by the world as a doubter. Sometimes we forget that after Jesus was threatened in Judea and he asked his disciples to accompany Him to raise Lazarus, St. Thomas said, "Then let us also go that we may die with Him." The Church praises Thomas for his honest doubt after the Resurrection because it led to a life driven by belief. St. John Chrysostom, in comparing him to the other apostles, says he "toiled through the grace of God more...zealously than them all as he ended up preaching in most of the known earth." He was martyred in India, and his feast day is October 6. You and your children can read more about him in *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR).

Tuesday we honor the Venerable Isidore, the Fool-For-Christ (5/14). He lived a privileged childhood in Germany, but left home to find the Kingdom of God. He converted to Orthodoxy from Catholicism and wandered to Russia. He made his home in a wooden shack in Rostov. During the day he acted like a crazy man yet he was compassionate and worked miracles. By night, he slept little, praising God in all night vigils. In 1474 the townsmen discovered his body when they passed by his hut and smelled a sweet fragrance. The OCA website says that according to S.A. Bulgakov's *Handbook for Clergy*, he was called Isidore Tvgerdislov, meaning "constant of word", because he talked constantly. Read more about fools-for-Christ in *The Freedom of Morality*, (CAT SPEC YAN), *The Inner Kingdom* (CAT SAC WAR), and *Seraphim's Seraphim* (HAG SER HTM). Read about a modern-day fool-for-Christ in *Crazy John* (BIO JOH MAK).

St. Brendan the Navigator (May 16) was born in Ireland in 484. He was educated in a monastery school and ordained as a priest when he was twenty-six. On his early journeys he established monasteries and met Sts. Finnian of Clonard (12/12) and Columcille (6/9). His most famous journey began when St. Barvitus told him of an island called the Promised Land for Saints where the inhabitants lived a particular way of life and held fast to Christianity. St. Brendan and 14 monks built a small boat and traveled for seven years in their search for the island. Their story includes facts and many disputed legends. After their voyage ended he traveled in Wales and Ireland. Prior to his death, he feared that his disciples would take his remains as relics, so he arranged for his body to be secretly taken in a luggage cart to Clonfert where he was buried at the Cathedral. Read more about him in *Saint Brendan and the Voyage before Columbus* (KID STS BRE).

St. Gregory the Dialogist tells us in his *Dialogues*, that St. Musa of Rome (5/16) was a pure-hearted child who lived in the fifth century. One night she dreamed that the Theotokos appeared to her surrounded by girls dressed in white and asked her if she wanted to live with them in Her court. When Mura said she would, the Theotokos admonished her to avoid silliness and joking and promised to come for her in thirty days. Mura told her parents about her dream and lived a strict life of prayer. In a couple of weeks she developed a fever. Five days later she saw the Mother of God coming for her with the girls clothed in white.

St. Euphrosyne (5/17) was the wife of the Great Prince Demetrius of Moscow. She built churches and founded a monastery in Moscow. Upon her advice, Russia was defended by transferring the Vladimir icon of the Mother of God to Moscow during the Tamerlane's invasion. After her five children were grown, she was tonsured as a nun, the first noblewoman of Moscow to enter the monastic life.