

From the Fathers (and others):

Keep the Feast of the Resurrection. Be a Peter or a John; hasten to the Sepulchre, running together, running against one another, vying in the noble race (cf. Jn. 20:3-4). And even if you be beaten in speed, win the victory of zeal; not looking into the tomb, but going in.

- *St. Gregory the Theologian*

Let us say, Brethren! And because of the Resurrection, let us forgive all things to those who hate us... (Doxasticon of Pascha). You easily forgive yourself, if you have sinned against God, or against men; accordingly forgive other people, too. Love your neighbor as yourself, forgive him much.

- *St. John of Kronstadt*

Therefore, come, all families of men, you who have been befouled with sins, and receive forgiveness for your sins. I am your forgiveness. I am the passover of your salvation. I am the lamb which was sacrificed for you. I am your ransom. I am your light. I am your saviour. I am your resurrection. I am your king. I am leading you up to the heights of heaven. I will show you the eternal Father. I will raise you up by my right hand.

- *St. Melito of Sardis*

Without the Resurrection of Christ human life is nothing else but a gradual dying which finally inevitably ends in death. Real true life is that life which does not end in death.

- *St. Justin Popovich*

Thus on Pascha we celebrate Christ's Resurrection as something that happened and still happens to us. For each one of us received the gift of that new life and the power to accept it and to live by it. It is a gift which radically alters our attitude toward everything in this world, including death. It makes it possible for us joyfully to affirm: "Death is no more!" Oh, death is still there, to be sure and we still face it and someday it will come and take us. But it is our whole faith that by His own death Christ changed the very nature of death, made it a passage – a "passover," a "Pascha" – into the Kingdom of God, transforming the tragedy of tragedies into the ultimate victory. "Trampling down death by death," He made us partakers of His Resurrection.

- *Fr. Alexander Schmemmann*

If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. And if Christ is not risen, nothing else matters.

- *Jaroslav Pelikan*

The Lord is life, as the One Who grants to souls who love the Lord, the movement proper for divine things. Again, He is resurrection as the One Who raises up the mind from a deathly craving for material things and cleanses it from all kinds of corruption and death.

- *St. Maximos the Confessor*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ May 5th, 2024 ~

Great and Holy PASCHA

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

Great & Holy PASCHA

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Reem Mansour.

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 5 – 12

Bright Week (No Fasting)

- Sunday** - NO MORNING SERVICES
- Agape Vespers, 3:30 pm
- Agape Picnic & Egg Hunt, following Agape Vespers
- Monday** - Paschal Office, 6:45 am
- Tuesday** - Paschal Office, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- **Divine Liturgy for St. John 6:00 pm**
- Wednesday** - Paschal Office, 9:00 am
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am **In Person*
- Vespers, 6:00 pm
- Bright Week Pizza Party, following Vespers
- Thursday** - Paschal Office, 9:00 am
- Friday** - Paschal Office, 6:45 am
- Paschal Office, 9:00 am
- Paschal Office, 12:00 pm
- Saturday** - Bridal Shower Honoring
Mary Elise O'Brien, 1:00 pm
- Abigail Verbist Baptism, 4:00 pm
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Upcoming Memorial

May 7:

Anna Mae Schroeder
40 days

Upcoming Baptism

May 11 @ 4:00pm:

Abigail Verbist

Upcoming Churching

May 12:

Ioana and Julia Rustom

Upcoming Enrollments

May 12:

Pierce Browning
Matthew Henthorn

Upcoming Baptism

May 18 @ 4:00pm:

Lincoln Spearman

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 5/5

None

Monday, 5/6

Birthday: Terry Harter, Hopper Jackson

Tuesday, 5/7

None

Wednesday, 5/8

Birthday: Pauline Koplín, Nathan Powell

St. John the Evangelist: Fr. John,

Dan O'Brien

St. Emmelia: Julie Sanderlin, Emmelia

Sanderlin, Emmelia Finley, Charlotte

Hagemeier

Thursday, 5/9

Anniversary: Fr. Don & Kh. Martha
Berge

Friday, 5/10

Birthday: Lady Hight, Joel Finley,

Dan O'Brien

Saturday, 5/11

Birthday: Mary Elliott

Anniversary: Wayne & Erika Parr

Commemorations

May 5: Great-martyr Irene of Thessalonika; Venerable Euthymios, bishop of Maditos in Thrace.

May 6: Righteous Job the long-suffering; Venerable Seraphim of Mount Domvu; translation of the relics of Sabbas, first archbishop of Serbia.

May 7: The commemoration of the apparition of the sign of the Cross over Jerusalem (351 AD); Martyr Akakios the centurion at Byzantium; Venerable Kodratos; Venerable Neilos the myrrh-streaming of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable Neilos of Sora; Venerable-martyr Pachomios of Athos; repose of Venerable John of Beverly; Priest Alexis, confessor and defender of Orthodoxy in America.

May 8: Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian; Venerable Arsenios the Great.

May 9: Prophet Isaiah; Martyr Christopher of Lycia; Venerable-martyr Nicholas; translation to Bari of the relics of Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

May 10: Apostle Simon Zelotes; Venerable Laurence of Egypt.

May 11: Hieromartyr Mokios, priest in Macedonia; Cyril and Methodios, equals-to-the-Apostles and enlighteners of the Slavs; New-martyr Argyros; Venerable-martyr Olympia; Martyr Joseph of Astrakhan.

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Acts	1:1-8	John	1:1-17
Monday	Acts	12:1-11	John	1:18-28
Tuesday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Luke	24:12-35
Wednesday	Acts	2:22-38	John	19:25-28; 21:24-25
Thursday	Acts	2:38-43	John	3:1-15
Friday	Acts	3:1-8	John	2:12-22
Saturday	Acts	3:11-16	John	3:22-33
Sunday	Acts	5:12-20	John	20:19-31

Remember in Your Prayers

Our catechumens: Jeff Bennett; Ben Haag; Thomas & Christy Potts; Andrew Potts; Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, & River Pfeister; Billy & Stacey Murray; Leigh Ann Pompa; 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; 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 Hagemeyer, Aryanna Smith

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Readers Needed for Agape Vespers – If you know a different language and would like to read the Gospel at Agape Vespers, please let Fr. Philip know!

Volunteers Needed – We will need many hands through Bright Week to assist with setting up for the meals, clean ups, and more! Please sign up on the link in the weekly emails!

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.

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.

AGAPE PICNIC

Join us after Agape Vespers (3:30 Sunday) for Corky's BBQ, an Egg Hunt, and Fellowship!

Bring: Lawn chairs, beverages of your choice for your family, & any musical instruments to play (if you want to join in)

Donations appreciated!

EGG HUNT

Children 3rd grade and younger are invited to participate in an egg hunt immediately following Agape Vespers. Each child should bring 12 filled plastic eggs to be hidden (boiled eggs will not be hidden) and their basket.

BRIGHT WEEK PIZZA PARTY

Wednesday evening following 6:00 p.m. Vespers
All are invited! Please RSVP on the weekly emails.

St. John Youth

This Week:

Pascha, 5/5 - Agape Vespers & BBQ Agape Picnic, 3:30pm
Tuesday, 5/7 - Divine Liturgy for St. John, 6:00pm
Wednesday, 5/8 - Vespers followed by Bright Week Pizza Party, 6:00 pm

Looking Ahead:

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

Women of St. John Calendar

5/8 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women’s Teaching will meet in person this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. If your schedule allows, bring a sack lunch or snack and join us for social time after the meeting.

5/11 (Sat.) Bridal Shower for Mary Elise O’Brien, 1pm – Please join us this Saturday, May 11th at Reem Mansour’s home for a bridal shower honoring Mary Elise O’Brien. Contact Trish Ratliff if you would like to contribute to the group gift (Venmo @Trisha-Ratliff). The registry can be found at: <https://www.zola.com/registry/maryeliseandjoe>

PLEASE SIGN UP online....

- **Agape Picnic** clean up on Pascha afternoon
- **Post-Pascha Clean Up** – taking down of bier during Bright Week, putting decorations away, washing and returning vases
- **RSVP for Bright Week Pizza Party for Wednesday after Vespers**



LIBRARY LINES

Monday we remember an Old Testament figure who joined us during Holy Week. Job (5/6), as we learned on Holy Saturday, was a fifth generation descendant of Abraham. He is an icon to us of faith and patience in the face of grief, poverty, rejection and bodily suffering. The Book of Job is considered a masterpiece of world literature, and we rejoice in his story because he is a picture of Christ. He is remembered at Pascha because the later verses of the Book record that he will “rise again with those whom the Lord resurrects.” Learn more about him in *The Trial of Job* (SCR COM REA) by Fr. Patrick Reardon and in *Lessons of Joy from the Book of Job* (SCR COM BET), a set of CDs by Fr. John Bethancourt.

Thursday we commemorate the Prophet Isaiah (5/9). On Holy Friday and Pascha we sang, “Isaiah saw the never-setting light of the compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ. Rising early from the night he cried out, ‘The dead shall arise.’ Those in the tombs shall awake. All those on earth shall greatly rejoice.” His prophesies about the virgin birth and the sufferings of Christ were also gloriously put to music by George Handel in *The Messiah*. Isaiah died a martyr’s death, and his relics are on Mt. Athos.

This week we commemorate two of the Apostles, our own St. John the Evangelist (5/8) and St. Simon the Zealot (5/10). According to the OCA website, Tradition tells us that St. Simon was the bridegroom at the wedding of Cana. From then on, he became a zealous believer in Christ. After Pentecost, he travelled and evangelized extensively from the Black Sea to Britain. He was crucified and is also commemorated on June 30 with the other Apostles. Read more about them in *Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR) and *Notes of the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - -MAS).

Sts. Cyril and Methodius (5/11) are known as equal to the apostles and enlighteners of the Slavs. Equal-to-the-Apostles is a special title given to some saints in recognition of their outstanding service for the spreading the Gospel, which is comparable to that of the original Apostles. (Among others who have been given this distinction are Sts. Mary Magdalene, Nina, Thekla, Helen and Constantine, Nicholas of Japan and Great Prince Vladimir.) Sts. Cyril and Methodius devised a Slavonic alphabet and translated books used in celebrating the divine services and almost the entire Old Testament. Investigate more about them in *Byzantium and the Slavs* (HIS OBO), *Orthodox Alaska* (HIS OLE), and *A Gift for Ianko* (KID STS CYR).

