

From the Fathers (and others):

For many come to faith, but few are brought into the Heavenly Kingdom. And many serve God with the tongue, but turn from Him in their lives. From this we should reflect on two things. The first is that no one should presume concerning his own salvation; for though he is called to the Faith, he knows not whether he will be chosen to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The second is that no one should take it upon himself to despair of his neighbor, whom he sees steeped in vice, because no one knows the richness of the Divine mercy.

- *Saint Gregory of Rome*

We must keep in mind that whatever we do, openly or in secret, we do in the presence of our Guardian Angel.

- *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

The goal of reading is the application, in our lives, of what we read. Not to learn it by heart, but to take it to heart. Not to practice using our tongues, but to be able to receive the tongues of fire and to live the mysteries of God.

- *Elder Paisios the Athonite*

The demons cunningly withdraw for a time in the hope that we will cease to guard our heart, thinking we have now attained peace; then they suddenly attack our unhappy Soul and seize it like a sparrow. Gaining possession of it, they drag it down mercilessly into all kinds of sin, worse than those which we have already committed and for which we have asked forgiveness. Let us stand, therefore, with fear of God and keep guard over our heart, practicing the Virtues which check the wickedness of our enemies.

- *St. Isaiah the Solitary*

If one studies a great deal in order to acquire knowledge and to teach others, without living the things he teaches, he does no more than fill his head with hot air. At most, he will manage to ascend to the moon using machines. The goal of the Christian is to rise to God without machines.

- *Elder Paisios the Athonite*

Our Lord Jesus Christ made the merciful shepherding of His sheep the proof of love for Himself (cf. Jn. 21:15-17). He denounces as 'wicked' the servant who refused to pardon the debt of his fellow servant and who did not share in even the smallest way, the immense kindness that was bestowed on himself; that he should suffer the fate which he dealt is plainly shown to be right (cf. Mt. 18:32-33).

- *St. Dionysius*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ September 10th, 2023 ~

Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

After-feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

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

Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: John 3:13-17

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Lori O'Brien.

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

September 10 – 17

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Parish Council, 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** ***The Elevation of the Holy Cross***
- Orthros, 8:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
- Friday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Sixth Hour, 12:00 pm
- Saturday** - 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

Today's Enrollments

Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, &
River Pfeister

Upcoming Churching – Sept. 17

Jackie and George Whatley

Upcoming Memorials – Sept. 17

Mary Allison Calloway - 25 years
Mother Nektaria - 40 days

Upcoming Baptism – Sept. 24

Julia VanLandingham

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 9/10

Birthday: Jack Turner

Anniversary: Jeff & Kim Boone,
Ben & Leah Shull

Monday 9/11

Birthday: Miriam Redmond

Anniversary: Drew & Sophia Garrison

Tuesday, 9/12

None

Wednesday, 9/13

Birthday: Nicole Mansour, Elizabeth
Cameron, Gavin van Drimmelen

Anniversary: David Twombly & Cindy
Fong

Thursday, 9/14

None

Friday, 9/15

Birthday: Nicholas Hill, Caroline
VanLandingham, Mitchell Schaftlein

Saturday, 9/16

Birthday: Alexandru New, Lily Parr,
Brian Pfeister, John Pfeister

Commemorations

Sept. 10: Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora; Empress Pulcheria.

Sept. 11: Venerable Theodora of Alexandria; Euphrosynos the Cook; Martyrs Demetrios and Euantha; translation of the relics of Venerable Sergios and Herman of Valaam.

Sept. 12: Hieromartyrs Autonomos of Italy and Coronatos of Iconium; Martyrs Okeanos; Venerable Daniel.

Sept. 13: The commemoration of the founding of the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem; Hieromartyr Cornelios the centurion; Martyr Aristeidos; Venerable Hierotheos the Younger of Iviron monastery on Athos; Great-martyr Ketevan, queen of Georgia; Six Martyrs at Tomi in Romania.

Sept. 14: The Elevation of the precious and life-giving Cross. Repose of John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable-martyr Makarios the New of Thessalonika; Venerable-martyr Joseph of Dionysiou monastery on Athos.

Sept. 15: Great-martyr Nikita the Goth; Martyr Porphyrios; Vissarion, bishop of Larisa; New-martyr John; Venerable Philotheos and Gerasimos; Joseph the New of Partos, the wonder-worker, metropolitan of Timisoara.

Sept. 16: Great-martyr Euphemia the all-praised; Martin the bishop; New-martyrs Isaac and Joseph of Georgia; Martyr Ludmilla, grandmother of Wenceslaus prince of the Czechs; Venerable Prokopios of Sazava in Bohemia.

Sept. 17: Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope; Hieromartyr Herakleidos of Cyprus; Martyr Agathokleia; Venerable Anastasios and Euxiphios.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Galatians	6:11-18	John	3:13-17
Monday	Galatians	2:11-16	John	12:19-36
Tuesday	Galatians	2:21; 3:1-7	John	11:47-54
Wednesday	Hebrews	3:1-4	Matthew	16:13-19
Thursday	1 Corinthians	1:18-24	John	19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30
Friday	Colossians	1:24-29; 2:1	Matthew	10:16-22
Saturday	2 Corinthians	6:1-10	John	8:21-30
Sunday	Galatians	2:16-20	Mark	8:34-38; 9:1

Remember in Your Prayers

Our catechumens: Jeff Bennett; Mitchell, Alicia, & Lily Schaftlein; Ben Haag; Grant Hunter; Sandra Curry; Thomas & Christy Potts; Eric Iverson; Andrew Potts; Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, & River Pfeister

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: Carole Sneed Spearman, Ashley Powell, Madison Dey, Katherine Verbist, Marija Pavlovich

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Orthodoxy 101 will next meet on Tuesday, September 19th, at 7pm. The topic will be *St. John Specifics – What Makes Our Parish Unique*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Sunday School Starting TODAY! – It's time for Sunday School! "Of all the holy works, the education of children is the most holy" (St. Theophan the Recluse). Thank you for your support of Sunday School and bringing your children to this very important time of education!!

Parish Council Update – The first meeting of the new council will be this Tuesday, September 12. Lord willing, we will continue to discuss the business of the church and particularly look ahead to 2024 and ways to continue to improve the life of our community. Please keep the council in your prayers! If you have specific items that you would like the council to discuss, please let Fr. Philip or one of the council members know.

The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club will meet at 6pm at the church next Sunday, September 17 to discuss *The Genesis of Gender* by Abigail Favale. All men are welcome. Please bring a dish and drinks to share.

DOMSE Fall Retreat – Registration is open for the DOMSE Fall Retreat, to be held Sept. 22-23 at St. Elias Orthodox Church in Atlanta, GA. For more information, please check the weekly emails or visit: <https://domse.org/fallretreat2023/>

Patronal Feast Potluck – The Feast of St. John is Tuesday, September 26. To celebrate, we will have a Potluck Feast on Sunday, September 24, after Divine Liturgy. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship with your brothers, sisters, and visitors of St. John!

Feast of St. Thekla – Join us on Sunday, September 24 (Time TBD) for a celebration for the Feast of St. Thekla. We will begin with a short Supplication service followed by a cookout and some fellowship time with our whole youth group but also to celebrate with all members of our parish who have been part of the Camp St. Thekla community. More details to come! We hope to see you there!

Blini Brunch!

Saint George Orthodox Church invites you to a fundraiser event on Saturday, September 30, from 10am-1pm. Delicious crepes will be served for brunch with your choice of filling (sweet or savory)! For more information, please see the insert or check the weekly emails.

Telos Parish Workshop October 7th – The Telos Project is offering a free, 3-hour, parish-wide "wake up" workshop - a time for participants to remember what they love about their parish and help make sure young adults know they are loved by God and welcomed in the Church. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 7, from 2-5pm. All are encouraged to attend. Dinner will be provided before Vespers. Please see the weekly parish emails to RSVP through SignUpGenius.

St. John Youth

Today:

Sunday, 9/10 - No Youth Group (Ted out of town.)

Next Week:

Sunday, 9/17 - ***Parent Meeting During Sunday School in Library**

Full Value Contract & Teen Room Revamp (Lunch Provided),
12:45-2:45pm

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, 9/24 - Feast of St. Thekla (More details to come), Time TBD
We'll gather together for a short Supplication service, cookout, and fellowship time!

Saturday, 9/30 - 7th-12th Grade Youth Retreat w/Guest Speaker Katrina Bitar!
(Lunch Provided), 10:30am-3:30pm

Women of St. John Calendar

9/11 (Mon.) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm – The Women's Book Club will meet tomorrow, September 11th, at Kh Pamela's home at 7pm. We will be discussing *Laurus* by Eugene Vodolazkin. All are welcome to join, even if you have not read the book! Please RSVP to Pamela Mashburn if you are planning to attend. We would love to see you! Bring a snack to share!

9/13 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

9/22 (Fri.) AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6pm – Knitting Circle will next meet on Friday, September 22, at 6pm at Miriam Redmond's home. Bring your projects (any handwork, not just knitting!) and a snack! All knitters working on prayer blankets, please bring your portion (whether you are through or not) to the meeting. If you are done before the meeting, you can drop off your portion to Margaret or Miriam.

LIBRARY LINES

Monday we celebrate the feast day of St. Euphrosynos (9/11). His icon adorns *St. John Cooks Again* (SPR/LIV/STJ) and many of our kitchen walls. Read about his life of humility, quietness and devotion to Truth in the introduction to the St. John cookbook. His story also is told and accompanied with beautifully colored illustrations in *The Boy, a Kitchen, and His Cave* (KID STS EUP) by Catherine Contopoulos.

Our thoughts (and questions) turn to the Church Calendar this week and last week as we celebrated the Indiction. This is a busy month in our parish with several memorial services and feast days which all keep the mystery of *time* on our minds. You may have noticed that many feasts, including September's Nativity of the Theotokos (9/8) and the Elevation of the Cross (9/14), have *forefeasts* and *leavetakings*. The feast days assigned for forefeasts and leavetakings and the length of days for them is determined by the class or ranking of them as set out in *The Festal Menaion* and *The Pentecostarion*. These are books that set the cycle of services in the Church. For more reading on time, see *The Year of Grace of the Lord* (CAT CAL MON) written by a monk of the Eastern Church, *The Orthodox Church Calendar* (CAT CAL PHO), and *The Church Year* (CAT CAL SCH) from the *Celebration of Faith* series.

The Cross is the focus of our attention many times throughout the year. On the third Sunday of Lent, the Adoration of the Cross, we remember the great significance the Cross plays in our salvation. March 6th, we commemorate the finding of the Cross by St. Helen. May 21st, is the feast day of St. Helen who was sent by her son, St. Constantine, on a pilgrimage to find the True Cross of Christ. On August 1st we commemorate the Procession of the Cross through the streets of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city and relief from illnesses. On Thursday (9/14), the Elevation of the Cross, we celebrate specific events centered around the true Cross. This is the only one of the twelve great feasts of the Church that did not occur in the life of Christ or the Theotokos. Read about the history and traditions surrounding feast days of the Cross in *A Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy* (HIS PAT), *Great Lent* (CAT LTHW SCH) by Alexander Schmemmann, *Sermons on the Major Holy Days* (CAT CAL CON) by Anthony M. Coniaris, *St. Helen Finds the Cross of Jesus* (KID STS HEL), *Exhaltation of the Cross*. (KID CHU ELA), and *A Child's Paradise of Saints* (KID STS MCL).

Part of the richness of our church calendar is that it shows us families who are part of the living body of Christ. Saturday we commemorate a saint connected with Advent. The Holy Martyr Ludmilla (9/16), a Czech princess, was the grandmother of St. Wenceslaus, the good king who fed the poor on the feast of St. Stephen. Read about him in *Good King Wenceslaus* (KID STS WEN). Learn more about St. Ludmilla in *My Holy Queens and Princesses* (KID STS POT).

St. Euphemia the All-praised (9/16) is best known for a miracle occurring after her death. The Fourth Ecumenical Council was held in a church which housed her relics. It was convened to establish the nature of Christ. The Monophysites opposed the doctrine of His two natures, divine and human, asserting Jesus was divine and not human. The Patriarch proposed that the two views be written down, St. Euphemia's tomb was opened and the scrolls placed on her bosom. This was done, and the tomb was then sealed and guarded by the emperor's soldiers. After three days of prayer and fasting, the tomb was opened. The scroll of the Orthodox confession was in her right hand and that of the heretics was at her feet. Read more about her in *The Encyclopedia of Major Saints and Fathers*, (HAG - - - ELE), p. 34 and in *Orthodox Saints* (HAG - - - POU), on p. 135 in the blue book and on pp. 25 and 199 in the yellow book. She is also commemorated July 11.