

From the Fathers (and others):

St. John Chrysostom says of the wonderful Christian heroine and Saint Thekla: "It seems to me that as I see this blessed virgin, in one hand she offers Christ virginity, and in the other hand, martyrdom."

St. Silouan the Athonite:

It takes neither money nor reputation to come to know God, but only humility.

If you are forgetful of the Lord, you will not pray, and without prayer, the soul will not dwell in the love of God, for the grace of the Holy Spirit comes through prayer. Prayer preserves a man from sin.

Do not murmur, O children of God, because you find life difficult. Only wrestle with sin and entreat help from the Lord, and He will hearken, for He is full of compassion and loves us.

To possess grace, a man must be temperate in all things - in his gestures, in speech, and in what he lets his eyes look upon, in his thoughts and in the food he eats. And every form of temperance is furthered by meditation in the word of God. It is written, 'Man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.'

The spirit of the Saints burned with an ardent flame and not only did not become extinguished by the wind of temptations, but burned with even greater force. They walked upon the earth with their feet and labored with their hands, but their spirit dwelt unceasingly with God, and their minds did not want to be detached from the remembrance of God.

Many rich and powerful men would pay dearly to see the Lord or His Most Pure Mother, but God does not appear in riches, but in the humble heart... Every one of the poorest men can be humble and come to know God. It need neither money nor reputation to come to know God, but only humility.

Beware of these two thoughts, and fear them. The first suggests 'you are a saint;' the other, 'you will not be saved.' Both come from the enemy, and there is no truth in them. Instead, think to yourself, 'I am a great sinner but the Lord is merciful. He loves with a great love, and will forgive me my sins.' Believe in this way, and, you will see, the Lord will forgive you. But put no faith in feats of your own, however, much you may have striven... God has mercy on us, not for our achievements but freely, because of His goodness.

If you would know of the Lord's love for us, hate sin and evil thoughts, and day and night pray fervently. The Lord will then give you His grace, and you will know Him through the Holy Spirit, and after death, when you enter into paradise, there too, you will know the Lord through the Holy Spirit, as you knew Him on earth.

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ September 24th, 2023 ~

***Commemoration of Proto-Martyr Thekla
& Venerable Silouan of Athos***

First 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

First Sunday of Luke

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

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

September 24 – October 1

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Patronal Potluck Feast, after Divine Liturgy
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Orthros, 5:00 pm
- Divine Liturgy for the Repose of St. John, 6:00 pm
- Tuesday** ***Repose of John the Evangelist & Theologian***
- 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
- 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** - Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Today's Baptism – Sept. 24

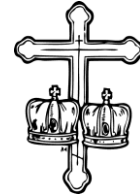
Julia VanLandingham

Upcoming Enrollments – Oct. 1

Billy & Stacey Murray

Upcoming Wedding – Oct. 22

Clare Freeman & Jake Smith



Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 9/24

Birthday: Emilie Rogers

St. Silouan: Ben Shull, Robert Coe

St. Thekla: Emilie Rogers

Monday 9/25

Birthday: Ethan Sanderlin

Tuesday, 9/26

Birthday: Wayne Parr

Anniversary: Michael & Mindy Williams

St. John the Evangelist: Fr. John,
Corey van Huystee, Dan O'Brien

Wednesday, 9/27

Birthday: Reem Mansour

Anniversary: Philip & Mawusi McKelroy

St. Aquilina: Chelsea Yadron

Thursday, 9/28

None

Friday, 9/29

Birthday: Jay Knight, Kate Kumar

Saturday, 9/30

None

Commemorations

Sept. 24: Proto-martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles; the commemoration of the wonder-working icon of the Theotokos of the Myrtle Tree; New-martyr Ahmed; Venerable Nicander of Pskov; Venerable Silouan of Athos; the synaxis of all saints of Alaska.

Sept. 25: Venerable Euphrosyne of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Paphnoutios and those with him; repose of Venerable Sergios of Radonezh; translation of the relics of Herman, archbishop of Kazan.

Sept. 26: The repose of the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.

Sept. 27: Martyr Kallistratos; the Apostles Aristarchos, Zenon and Mark of the Seventy; New-martyr Aquilina; Venerable Ignatios, abbot in Asia Minor; Venerable Savvatios of Solovskiy.

Sept. 28: Venerable Chariton the Confessor, abbot of Palestine; Venerable Neophytos and Auxentios; Martyr Heliodoros; Prophet Baruch; Martyr Wenceslaus, prince of the Czechs.

Sept. 29: Venerable Kyriakos the hermit of Palestine; Martyr Petronia; Venerable-martyrs Malachi and those with him.

Sept. 30: Hieromartyr Gregory, bishop and enlightener of Greater Armenia; Martyrs Rhipsime and Gaiana and companions of Armenia; Michael, first metropolitan of Kiev; Venerable Gregory of Pelshma River.

Oct. 1: The Protection of the Theotokos; Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, first bishop of Damascus; Martyr Domninos; Romanos the Melode; Venerable John Koukouzelis of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable Gregory the Domestikos of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable Sabbas of Vishera.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	2 Timothy	3:10-15	Luke	5:1-11
Monday	Ephesians	1:22-23; 2:1-3	Luke	4:38-44
Tuesday	1 John	4:12-19	John	19:25-27; 21:24-25
Wednesday	Ephesians	3:8-21	Luke	5:33-39
Thursday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Luke	6:17-23
Friday	Galatians	5:22-26; 6:1-2	Luke	6:17-23
Saturday	1 Corinthians	16:13-24	Matthew	24:42-47
Sunday	2 Corinthians	6:16-18, 7:1	Luke	6:31-36

Remember in Your Prayers

Our catechumens: Jeff Bennett; Mitchell, Alicia, & Lily Schaflein; Ben Haag; 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 Pavlovic

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Patronal Feast Potluck Today! – We will celebrate the Feast of St. John today after Divine Liturgy. Our Atrium and older Elementary School will not have Sunday School today so that everyone can attend our Potluck Celebration.

Feast of St. Thekla Tonight! – Campers, Staff, Alumni, & Families old & new of Camp St. Thekla – Join us tonight from 4:30-8pm for a celebration for the Feast of St. Thekla at the Labonte's home. We will begin with a short Supplication service followed by a cookout and some fellowship time with our youth group, families, and all members of our parish who have been part of the Camp St. Thekla community. Food and soda provided. Please contact Ted (ted@stjohnmemphis.org) for more info. We hope to see you there!

No Level 2 Atrium Next Sunday – Parents, please note there will be no Atrium Level 2 (1st-3rd grade) next Sunday, October 1. All other classes will meet as normal.

New Women's Council Member – The new women's council had their first meeting this week. Sarah Elliott is joining Christine McGee, Miriam Redmond and Elizabeth Cameron on the council. May the Lord bless their work!

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.

Parish Grizzlies Game – RSVP NOW – The NBA season is upon us! Our parish has reserved 20 tickets for the Sunday, November 26th game at 5pm. Tickets are \$25! Reserve yours today (email Ted at ted@stjohnmemphis.org) so we can order more if need be! Go Grizz!

Blini Brunch this Saturday! – 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 check the weekly emails.

Orthodoxy 101 will next meet on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 7pm. The topic will be *Iconography*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Parish Council Update – The Parish Council met on September 12. The new members were able to get some background on the parish council. General maintenance was discussed and preparations will begin on our annual pledge drive and budget for 2024. There was a lively and productive discussion on the growth of the parish and growing pains involved. A more robust update on that will be sent out in the coming weeks. May God guide our council and the work of the Church!

V&E Artwalk 2023 October 7th – Save the date! The annual VECA Artwalk is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, from 11am-5pm. (Rain date October 8.) More information can be found in the parish emails or at: <https://www.vegreenline.org/about-artwalk-2023>

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, 9/24 -

Feast of St. Thekla (Food and soda provided), 4:30-8:00pm
We'll gather together at the Labonte's home for a short Supplication service, cookout, and fellowship time! Feel free to bring other refreshments if you'd like. Please contact Ted for more info.

Next Week:

Saturday, 9/30 -

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

Sunday, 10/1 -

Q&A with Katrina, 12:30-1pm

Women of St. John Calendar

9/27 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

10/12 (Thurs.) AWSJ Fall Kick Off Social, 6-8pm – Save the Date! Come relax and socialize at Elizabeth Cameron's home as we kick off the new Church year! We have so many new women to meet and old friends to catch up with. If you would like to provide any food, please contact Elizabeth.

Blini Brunch – This Saturday!

9/30 (Sat.), Saint George Orthodox Church, 10am – 1pm (6984 US-70, Bartlett, TN 38133)

Saint George Orthodox Church

Invites you to a fundraiser event

Blini Brunch

Delicious Crepes Served with Your Choice of Filling



Sweet or Savory

- Nutella
- Smoked Salmon
- Strawberry Jam
- Hot Ground Beef with onion
- Sweet Ricotta
- Ham and Cheese

Beverages

Tea / Coffee / Sweet Tea / Water

LIBRARY LINES

Today we commemorate the Saints of Alaska (9/24). A very readable account of the history of Orthodoxy in our northernmost state can be found in Michael Oleksa's *Orthodox Alaska* (HIS OLE). He begins showing us the model for missions with the story of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and their conviction that its goal has to be the "incarnation of the Logos of God into the language and customs of a country," and the "growth of an indigenous Church which will sanctify and endorse the people's personality." Fr. Michael relates the Alaskan culture and Russian Orthodoxy and goes on to tell the story of some of the saints we honor today. See also *The Orthodox Church in Alaska* (HIS OLE) and *Everyday Wonders* (HIS OLE).

Secular literature tells many tales of women who disguised themselves as men to accomplish some purpose that would be otherwise denied them. Even Christians have done so. St. Euphrosyne (9/25) was born into a pious family in Alexandria in the fifth century. After her father arranged a marriage for her, she donned men's clothing and ran away from home to pursue her desire for monasticism. She told the monks she was a eunuch named Smaragdos. After living there thirty-eight years, she revealed her identity to her grieving father who was still searching for her.

Monday we also commemorate a saint whose story appeals to children and adults. St. Sergius of Radonezh (9/25) was given the name Bartholomew at his birth in 14th century Russia. He loved the Church and the beauty of God's world; however, he hated school because he could not learn to read. In answer to his prayers, God sent an angel to him in the form of an old monk. He gave a piece of prosphora to the boy to eat as a sign of God's gift of knowledge and understanding. Immediately he could read with ease and comprehension. When he grew to manhood, he was tonsured as a monk. He went on to establish over 40 monasteries and, along with St. Seraphim of Sarov, he is one of Russia's most beloved saints. *The Wonderful Life of Russia's Saint Sergius of Radonezh* (KID STS RAD) relates his story in poetic form along with bright colorful icon style illustrations.

Tuesday we celebrate the repose of our patron, St. John the Evangelist. We remember many events of his life from the Scriptures but his last days are less familiar to us. Under Nero's orders he was sent to Rome to stand trial for being a Christian. He was given poison to drink and was put into a pot of boiling oil. God preserved him, and John was banished to the island Patmos along with his disciple Prochorus. Besides performing many miracles there, he wrote the Book of Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse, as well as his Gospel and Epistles. When approaching his death at over 100 years old, he asked his disciples to dig his grave in the shape of a cross. He was the only Apostle who was not martyred. Read more about him in *Meet the Evangelists* (KID STS KHO) and *Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR).

We remember St. Wenceslaus at least four times during the year. A couple of weeks ago we commemorated his grandmother St. Ludmilla. We sing about him at Christmas and remember him on the feast day (12/27) of St. Stephen. Thursday (9/28) is his own feast day. Read about him in *Good King Wenceslaus* (KID STS WEN).