

From the Fathers (and others):

If a man has on one side of him fire, and on the other side a vessel with water, then if he starts burning from the fire, he takes water from the vessel and extinguishes the fire. Like to this are the evil thoughts, suggested by the enemy of our salvation, which like a spark can enkindle sinful desires within a man. It is necessary to put out these sparks with the water, which is prayer and the yearning of the soul for God.

- *Abba Poemen the Great*

Your hand should always be open... Alms and Prayer go together.

- *St. George Karslides*

Almsgiving above all else requires money, but even this shines with a brighter luster when the alms are given from our poverty. The widow who paid in the two mites was poorer than any human, but she outdid them all.

- *St. John Chrysostom*

... if a man prays God for some virtue, and at the same time gives himself up to negligence, acquiring no definite means to gain this virtue, and making no effort towards it, truly this man tempts God, rather than prays. Thus the divine James says: 'The effectual prayer of a righteous man avails much' (Jms. 5:16). What avails to make prayer effective? is when, besides begging a saint to pray for him about something, the man also prays about it himself and with all diligence does everything necessary for obtaining his request.

- *Lorenzo Scupoli*

True, one may know man's final goal: communion with God. And one may describe the path to it: faith, and walking in the commandments, with the aid of divine grace. One need only say in addition: here is the path – start walking!

- *St. Theophan the Recluse*

We have such a law: If you forgive, it means that God has forgiven you; but if you do not forgive your brother, it means that your sin remains with you.

- *St. Silouan the Athonite*

Love the poor and co-suffer with them, so that God may have mercy on you also.

- *Elder Justin Parvu of Romania*

He who conquers one opponent proves himself stronger than another, but he who conquers passion proves himself stronger than himself.

- *St. Cyprian of Carthage*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ September 3rd, 2023 ~

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Commemoration of Hieromartyr Anthimos of Nicomedia
& Venerable Theoktistos, Fellow Ascetic with Euthymios the Great*

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

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Dn. Charles McKelroy.

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 3 – 10

- 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
- Orthodoxy 101, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am (*In person)
- Vespers, 6:00 pm
- Bible Study, 7:00 pm
- Thursday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Orthros, 5:00 pm
- Divine Liturgy, 6:00 pm
- Friday** ***The Nativity of the Theotokos***
- 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 Enrollment

Andrew Potts

Today's Memorials

Michael Oberbillig – 3 years
Kitty Gilliland – 21 years
Lee Taylor – 21 years

Upcoming Churching – Sept. 17

Jackie and George Whatley

Upcoming Baptism – Sept. 24

Julia VanLandingham

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 9/3

Birthday: Violet Hight

Monday 9/4

Birthday: Bryce Kirk

St. Hermione: Hermione Hight

Tuesday, 9/5

Birthday: George Maas, Ben Shull

St. Elizabeth: Elizabeth Cameron, Ella White, Miriam Knight

St. Zachariah: Zachary White

Wednesday, 9/6

Birthday: Megan Salloum, Jarrett Wilson

Michael the Archangel: Michael Williams, Michael Cameron, Michael Elliott, Mike Jackson, Mike Jackson, Sr.

Thursday, 9/7

Birthday: Melissa White

St. Cassiane: Caroline VanLandingham

Friday, 9/8

None

Saturday, 9/9

Birthday: Kh. Pamela Mashburn, Larry Ichniowski, Anne Castrodale

Anniversary: Jarrett & Kelly Wilson
St. Anna: Kh. Pamela Mashburn, Lydia Williams, Anna Finley, Kendall Ichniowski, Nicole Mansour, Anne Castrodale, Anne Katherine VanLandingham, Karen Bell, Caroline O'Brien, Anna Sanderlin, Sarah Elliott, Sarah Ann Cameron, Jillanne Ballard, Joyce Bittle

Commemorations

Sept. 3: Hieromartyr Anthimos of Nicomedia; Martyr Chariton; New-martyr Polydoros of Cyprus; Venerable Theoktistos, fellow-faster with Euthymios the Great; Phoebe the deaconess; uncovering of the relics of Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-worker; Ionikios I, patriarch of Serbia.

Sept. 4: Hieromartyr Babylas of Antioch; Prophet Moses the God-seer; Martyrs Jerusalem, Sekendos, Sekendios and Kegouros in Sleppo; Martyr Hermione, daughter of the Apostle Philip the deacon; uncovering of the relics of Joasaph, bishop of Belgorod; Venerable Anthimos the New; New-hieromartyr Gorazd, bishop of Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia.

Sept. 5: Prophet Zachariah and Elizabeth, parents of the Forerunner; Obadiah, bishop of Persia; martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb.

Sept. 6: The commemoration of the miracle of the Archangel Michael in Colossae; Martyrs Eudoxios, Andronikos and Kalodote.

Sept. 7: Martyr Sozon of Cilicia; Apostles Euodos and Onesiphoros of the Seventy; New-martyr Athanasios; John, archbishop of Novgorod; Venerable Kassiane; Venerable Cloud of Nogent-sur-Seine.

Sept. 8: The Nativity of the Theotokos.

Sept. 9: The holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; Great-martyr Severian of Sebaste; the fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council; Venerable Joseph of Volotsk; uncovering of the relics of Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov.

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	1 Corinthians	16:13-24	Matthew	21:33-42
Monday	2 Corinthians	12:10-19	Mark	4:10-23
Tuesday	2 Corinthians	12:20-21; 13:1-2	Matthew	23:29-39
Wednesday	Hebrews	2:2-10	Luke	10:16-21
Thursday	Galatians	1:1-3, 20-24; 2:1-5	Mark	5:1-20
Friday	Philippians	2:5-11	Luke	10:38-42; 11:27-28
Saturday	1 Corinthians	2:6-9	Matthew	10:37-42; 11:1
Sunday	Galatians	6:11-18	John	3:13-17

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

Prayer Requests: Mother Raphaela; 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); Dn. Sidney Elliott; 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 5th, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Divine Liturgy – Part 4*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Bible Study will resume this Wednesday, September 6. We will meet in person and via Zoom at 7pm (following Vespers at 6). We will be studying Romans.

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

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.

Sunday School Starting 9/10 (Next Week!) – Sunday School will officially begin next week, on September 10. You should have received an email about your class for this year. If you did not, please reach out to Fr. Philip. Sunday School will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Students and teachers will be dismissed prior to the announcements being made. We will not have Sunday School the last Sunday of the month to allow for all of the students and teachers to have an opportunity to fellowship during coffee hour. May God bless our Sunday School year ahead!!

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/>

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.

Lost, Found, & Left – Last Week!! – Please be sure to look at the table in St. Raphael Hall for items that have recently been left at the church. There are several items waiting to go home with you! *Items not claimed will be donated this week.*

Parish Council Update – The results are in! Thank you to everyone who turned in recommendations for the new Parish Council! The new members of the Parish Council are Mr. Dan O'Brien and Mr. Mike Jackson (the younger). May the Lord God continue to bless our council as they help to discern the work of the Church. The first meeting of the new council will be September 12.

St. John Youth

Today:

Sunday, 9/3 -

Lunch at Someone's Home, 1:30-3:30pm
Bring a side or dessert.

This Week:

Sunday, 9/10 -

No Youth Group (Ted out of town.)

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, 9/17 -

***Parent Meeting During Sunday School in Library**
Full Value Contract & Teen Room Revamp (Lunch Provided),
12:45-2:45pm

Sunday, 9/24 -

Feast of St. Thekla (More details to come), Time TBD

Saturday, 9/30 -

7th-12th Grade Youth Retreat w/Guest Speaker Katrina Bitar!
10:30-3:30pm

Women of St. John Calendar

9/6 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet in person this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

Save the Date for Blini Brunch!

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

Very different circumstances surround our feast days this month! We see Church hierarchs staunchly defending our Faith, two holy couples who raised the Theotokos and the Forerunner, and a boy who showed his devotion to God in a life of meekness. Look for their stories and icons in St. John Library.

Hardly a week goes by that we don't commemorate the uncovering or translation of a saint's relics. This week we remember it today for St. Nektarios (9/3) and on Monday for St. Joasaph (9/4). So, what's so important about it? *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (HIS/CRO) donates a page to this practice explaining that it is even practiced in Buddhism and is "based on the natural instinct of men to treat with reverence what is left of the dead they loved." Read *The Pearl* (CAT GEN WHE), beginning on p. 139, to find out more about venerating relics. Bishop Kallistos Ware relates this to the Orthodox theology of the body. See chapter 11 of *The Orthodox Church* (CAT GEN WAR).

A more readable explanation is given in *The Pearl* by Michael Whelton (CAT GEN WHE). Chapter VI gives us his answers to questions frequently asked by Protestants, or former ones like most of us. His concise answer concerning relics begins on page 139. Bishop Kallistos Ware connects this practice with the theology of the body in *The Orthodox Church* (CAT GEN WAR). See chapter 11.

The Prophet Moses (9/4) is one of the most familiar persons in the Old Testament. His mother and sister hid him in a basket in the Nile to protect him from Pharaoh's soldiers. By God's grace he was raised as an Egyptian in the court of Pharaoh himself. Moses killed one of his soldiers and fled into the desert. There God called to him from a burning bush, a type of the Ever-virgin Theotokos, to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He performed many miracles during his life and appeared with the prophet Elias in the Transfiguration. Read about him in *Baby Moses* (KID STS MOS), *Moses' Flight from Egypt* (KID STS MOS), *Moses and the Burning Bush* (KID STS MOS), *The Life of Moses* (PAT GRE) by St. Gregory of Nyssa, *The Children's Bible Reader* (KID BIB GBS), and *Children's Bible: the New Testament* (KID BIB AME).

September is very rich in commemorations of saints who are special to our parish. This week, we honor two sets of righteous parents, Sts. Zachariah and Elizabeth (9/5) and Sts. Joachim and Anna (9/9). Both of their stories are told in *The Life of the Virgin Mary*, *The Theotokos* (REF HAG - - - HOL).

Sts. Joachim and Anna (9/9) are beautifully depicted in *The Story of Mary: the Mother of God* (KID STS MAR). The warm and colorful illustrations show a loving family who were instrumental in our salvation. This book is a wonderful bedtime book for little ones and can be read by primary grade children. Adults will learn much more about them in *The Life of the Virgin Mary*, *The Theotokos* (REF HAG - - - HOL). It is an excellent addition for home libraries since it is a comprehensive source of Tradition, iconography and hymnography on everyone who touched the life of the Theotokos.

Saturday we remember the fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council (9/9) who rejected the teachings of Nestorius and affirmed the title Theotokos to the Most Holy One. Church history, particularly the Councils, may seem dry, but it is far from the case. Read *First Seven Ecumenical Councils* by Leo Davis (HIS DAV), and you will see politics and intrigue played out in the lives of very devout and humble men who staunchly defended the Truth. For more, take a look at *The Church of the Ancient Councils* (HID LHU), *Oecumenical Synods of the Orthodox Church* (HIS THO), and *The Nicene Creed*, pts. 1-2 (vol 2) of *Formation of Christian Theology* (HIS BEH).