

**From the Fathers (and others):**

The best rule and standard for a well-disciplined life is this: to be indifferent to the pleasure or pain of the flesh, but to avoid immoderation in either direction, so that the body may neither be disordered by obesity nor yet rendered sickly and so unable to execute commands.

St. Basil the Great

It is not enough to give. We must have a heart that gives. In order to give, we must have a compassion deep enough for our gift to be forgiven, because if we give dutifully, if we are charitable only in our actions, the recipient receives humiliation and sorrow and pain together with our gift.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Meekness is an immovable state of soul which remains unaffected, whether in evil report or in good report, in dishonor or in praise.

St. John Climacus

Since 'knowledge puffs up, but love edifies' (I Cor. 8:1), unite love with knowledge and you will free yourself from arrogance and be a spiritual builder, edifying both yourself and all who draw near you.

St. Maximos the Confessor

As soon as grace notices a trace of self-opinion beginning to appear in a man's thoughts, as soon as it sees that a man begins to think highly of himself, it immediately allows temptations to grow and gain strength in him, until he realizes his weakness, and runs to clutch God in all humility. Thus a man comes to the measure of manhood by perfect faith and trust in the Son of God, and is elevated to love.

The monks Callistus and Ignatius

I have seen pride lead to humility. And I remembered him who said: Who hath known the mind of the Lord? The pit and offspring of conceit is a fall; but a fall is often an occasion of humility for those who are willing to use it to their advantage.

St. John Climacus

If I had in myself, only a fist-full of blood; I would shed it for the icon of Christ.

St. Stephen the New Martyr

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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*~ December 16, 2018 ~  
Sunday of the Holy Fathers*

**ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TN 38107  
(901) 274-4119

[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

[www.orthodoxtupelo.com](http://www.orthodoxtupelo.com)

**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH**  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all 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 and CHURCH SCHOOL**  
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 of the Holy Fathers

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:4-11

**Gospel:** Luke 14:16-24

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

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

**December 16 - 23 (Nativity Fast)**

- Sunday** -Teen Group, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
**Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Paraklesis, 6:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Men's lunch, 12:00 p.m., Dino's  
-Caroling @ King's Sons & Daughters, 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Great Vespers for St. Ignatius, 5:30 p.m.  
-Dinner, 6:15 p.m.  
-NO Teaching, Teens, or Atrium (will resume Jan. 9)  
**Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
**Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.  
-Teens, Zoo Lights, 7:00 p.m.  
**Saturday** -Nave Cleaning, 9:00 – until  
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.  
**Sunday** -**Church School & Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**  
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

### UPCOMING

Churching of Katherine & Gwen Verbist, 12/16  
Chrismation of Sharon Taylor, 12/23

### MEMORIALS

Stefania, 20 years  
Piotn, Julian, Bogolan, Piotnis  
(Aleksandra Klimkowski's family)

### DIVINE LITURGY

**Sunday, December 23, 10:00 a.m.**

**PRIEST:** Fr. Philip  
**READER:** David Twombly  
**USHER:** Dan O'Brien  
**HOLY BREAD:** Anna Pashchinskaya  
**ALTAR SERVERS:** James, Mark, Thomas, Alex  
**COFFEE HOUR:** NO VOLUNTEERS, NEED HELP

## COMMEMORATIONS

**December 16:** Prophet Haggai; Theophania the empress; Hieromartyr Modestos, archbishop of Jerusalem.

**December 17:** Prophet Daniel; The Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael; Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonder-worker; Avvakum the deacon.

**December 18:** Martyrs Sebastian and Zoe of Rome, and those with them.

**December 19:** Sunday before the Nativity of Christ (The Holy Fathers); Martyrs Boniface and Areos of Cilicia; Martyrs Eutychios of Thessalonika; Venerable Aglaida the Roman; Boniface of Ferentino.

**December 20:** Hieromartyr Ignatios the God-bearer, bishop of Antioch; New-martyr John of Thasos; Daniel II of Serbia.

**December 21:** Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia; Martyr Themistokles of Myra in Lycia; Peter, metropolitan of Moscow and all Russia.

**December 22:** Great-martyr Anastasia and her teacher the Martyr Chrysogonos.

**December 23:** Ten martyrs of Crete; New-martyr Nicholas; Venerable Nahum of Ochrid, enlightener of the Bulgarians.



### **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Sunday	Colossians	3:4-11	Luke	14:16-24
Monday	Hebrews	11:33-40; 12:1-2	Mark	9:42-50; 10:1
Tuesday	Hebrews	9:8-23	Mark	10:2-12
Wednesday	Hebrews	10:1-18	Mark	10:11-16
Thursday	Hebrews	10:32-38	Mark	9:33-41
Friday	Hebrews	11:8-16	Mark	10:24-32
Saturday	Galatians	3:8-12	Luke	13:19-29
Sunday	Hebrews	11:9-10; 32-40	Matt	1:1-25



**Pray for our catechumen:** Frank Pompa, Sharon Woelm-Taylor

**Please remember in your prayers** – Sister Olga , Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Nicholas Hill, Janna Knight (pregnant), Lavinia Dumitrache (pregnant), Leah Shull (pregnant), Ashley Powell (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), Dot Lawson (Pam Bowick’s mother & Lawson’s grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha’s daughter), Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Caroling at King’s Daughters and Sons** – St. John will again be Caroling at King’s Daughters on Tuesday, December 18. We will meet at 6:30 p.m.in the front lobby of the home, located at 3568 Appling Rd. in Bartlett. All are welcome to join us for a blessed evening!

**Nave Cleaning** – Join us Saturday morning, December 22, from 9:00 a.m. until as we joyfully prepare the nave for the Nativity services. All are welcome and there will be jobs for every age and ability!

**Nativity Decorating** – Sarah Finley will be decorating the church for Nativity on the afternoon of Sunday, December 23. All are invited to help! If you have questions, please see Sarah.

**Second Day of Christmas at St. Paul Skete** - Mother Nektaria invites everyone to St. Paul Skete in Grand Junction to celebrate the Second Day of Christmas, the Synaxis of the Theotokos, on Wednesday, December 26th. Fr. Philip will serve Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m., followed by a potluck meal – bring some Christmas “overabundance” (foods that don’t need heating) – and the singing of Christmas carols. Please try to let Mother Nektaria know by the morning of Wednesday, December 19th, if you plan to come so she can better prepare for the day (e-mail: [monektaria@gmail.com](mailto:monektaria@gmail.com) or phone: 731.764.0085).

**Book Reading** – Judy Terry will be holding a book reading on the 12 Days of Christmas on Sunday, December 30 during coffee hour! This is sure to be a fun event complete with books, singing and cookies! All are welcome!

**Vollentine Elementary School Supply Drive** – St. John is participating in VECA’s school supply drive benefitting Vollentine Elementary from now until January 6. Donations may be left downstairs in the classroom.

**Welcome Team** – The Welcome Team is reorganizing! If you are interested in the vital ministry of welcoming our visitors and new faces during coffee hour, please contact Gary Karnaghon for more information on how you can help.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Annual Parish Business Meeting, Sunday, January 13 following liturgy.

**Parish Directory** – New directories can be found downstairs. If you are new, or have had any address/phone/email changes, please review the directory to be sure your information is correct. If you need to make updates, email them to [tratliff@stjohnmemphis.org](mailto:tratliff@stjohnmemphis.org).

**Parish Council Update** – At the council meeting on Tuesday evening, the parish council approved the cost of repairing the speaker system to the basement and adding an additional speaker to the nursery area. In addition, the budget for 2019 was approved as well as a shift to new accounting and directory software. Lord willing, these new programs will help to continue to streamline our financial system. The annual parish meeting will be Sunday, January 13, mark your calendars and be sure to attend this important meeting for our community.

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Monday, 12/17:** Bru Wallace  
*Righteous Deborah: Sh. Deb Mashburn, Allannah Paden*
- Tuesday, 12/18:** Nelvia Agnew, Brian Boone  
*St. Zoe of Rome: Zoe van Drimmelen*
- Wednesday, 12/19:** Anniversary: JonMark & Heather Hetrick
- Thursday, 12/20:** Isaac George
- Saturday, 12/22:** Amal Rustom, Weston Sanderlin



## Nativity Celebration

Following Divine Liturgy on December 24 (early morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>) St. John will continue the Nativity Celebration in St. Raphael hall with food and fellowship.

The church will provide: deli trays for sandwiches, tea, and champagne. Side items and desserts will be potluck. Please keep contributions simple and in containers that can be disposed of if left. *Let's keep this celebration enjoyable for everyone by having as little set up and clean up as possible!*

## Special Services for the remainder of the fast & the Nativity season through Theophany

### Monday, December 17

Paraklesis, 6:00 PM

### Monday, December 24

Royal Hours, 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM

Orthros for Nativity, 9:15 PM

Divine Liturgy, 10:30 PM

### Saturday, December 31

Great Vespers for St. Basil, 6:00 PM

### Saturday, January 5

Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Followed by the blessing of the MS River

Lunch at church following the blessing

### Sunday, January 6

Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

followed by the First Great Sanctification of Water

## Library Lines

Today we honor perhaps the richest group on the Church's list of commemorated saints. It's the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the ancestors in the flesh of Christ, and it is a powerful reminder to us that He is fully man and fully God.

In keeping with this theme of the Holy Forefathers, Monday we commemorate the Prophet Daniel (12/17) and the Three Holy Youths. They are familiar to many of us because they are frequent subjects of children's Bible stories. Remember Daniel in the lion's den and the fiery furnace? It is amazing that all of these stories and events that we learned of in childhood are "ever-occurring" and woven into the Liturgy, music, and life of the Church. The three holy youths are mentioned repeatedly during services throughout the year including Lent and even in the marriage service. Read about these events in *Children's Bible Reader* (KID BIB GBS) and *Daniel and the Lion* (KID STS DAN). And, look for their icons in our nave.

John of Kronstad (10/19 & 12/20) is a 20<sup>th</sup> century saint who was glorified by the church just over twenty years ago! Check out our library's books by and about him: *My Life in Christ* (PAT JOH), *On Prayer* (PAT/JOH), *Spiritual Counsels* (PAT JOH), *The Life of Righteous Father John the Wonderworker of Kronstadt* (KID/JOH), *Season of Repentance* (PAT JOH), and *A Spiritual Portrait: St. John of Kronstadt*, (HAG JOH CON). Look also in *Road to Emmaus*, the winter 2014 #56 issue.

Thursday we commemorate St. Ignatius the God-Bearer (12/20), a disciple of our own patron, St. John the Evangelist. Tradition tells us that Christ held the young saint in His arms when He said, "Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." It is also said that he began the practice of antiphonal singing in church after seeing a vision of angels alternately giving their praises to God. Perhaps he is best known for actively desiring to die for Christ. On the road to martyrdom in Rome, he continually repeated the name of Jesus. When asked about this he said that the Name was written on his heart. St. Ignatius was devoured by lions which left only his heart and some bones. The pagans cut open his heart and saw "Jesus Christ" in gold letters. Learn more about him in *Fathers of the Church* (HAG - - - WUE), *Pillars of the Church* (HAG - - - GRE), and in *For Christ and the Church: St. Ignatius of Antioch* (PAT COM IGN).

St. Juliana (12/21) was one of many women saints who refused a pagan suitor and dedicated her life to Christ. Her father handed her over to torture in the presence of a large crowd, many of whom professed Christ and joined her in receiving martyrs' crowns. According to the OCA website, she was the subject of an Anglo-Saxon poem which was penned by Cynewulf in the 8th century.

Saturday we honor St. Anastasia (12/22). Anastasia was forced into marriage with a pagan. He locked her in their home after learning that she donned a disguise and visited Christians who had been imprisoned because of their faith. After he husband's death, she gave away her money and visited and nursed the Christians who were in prison in several cities. She received the name, *Deliverer from Potions* because she healed many from the effects of poisons. She was arrested, starved, and martyred by being burned alive. Read more about her in *The Encyclopedia of the Major Saints and Fathers* (HAG - - - ELE) and in *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG - - - MOS).