

From the Fathers (and others):

“Behold, you scoffers, take notice; look and be amazed and be gone, for I am working a work in your days which you would not believe even if someone told it to you.”

Habakkuk 1:5

For though the fig tree will not bear fruit and there be no grapes on the vines; the labor of the olive tree fail and the fields yield no food; though the sheep have no pasture and there be no oxen in the cribs; Yet I will glory in the Lord; I will rejoice in God my Savior. The Lord God is my strength; He will direct my feet to the end; He will set me upon high places, so to conquer by His song.

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Counsels of St Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia

Life without Christ is not life. That’s the way it is...If you don’t see Christ in everything you do, you are without Christ.

Christ is our Friend, our Brother; He is whatever is beautiful and good. He is everything. In Christ there is no gloom, melancholy or introversion, whereas man suffers from various temptations and situations that make him suffer. Christ is joy, life, light, the true light, which makes man glad, makes him fly, makes him see all things, see all people, suffer for all people, and want all people to be with him, and close to him.

The martyrs suffered greatly when they were tormented. They suffered in the same way as any normal person would have suffered, with the difference that they were continually united to Christ through prayer and partook of a force which was greater than their pain, and in this way they were able to conquer...Hanging onto prayer, they were strengthened and endured the pain of their martyrdom until the end.

I am not afraid of hell and I do not think about Paradise. I only ask God to have mercy on the entire world as well as on me.

We must not approach Christ out of fear of how we will die and of what will become of us. Rather, we must open our hearts to Him, as when we tug at a curtain and the sun immediately shines in. In this way Christ will come to us, that we might truly love Him.

Today people want to be loved and for this reason they are unsuccessful. The correct way is to not be interested in whether or not people love you, but whether or not you love Christ and people. This is the only way that the soul is fulfilled.

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ December 2, 2018 ~
27th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Prophet Habakkuk

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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

Holy Prophet Habakkuk

Epistle: Ephesians

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Judy Terry**.

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 2 – 9 (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
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
*Note -Great Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
Schedule -Dinner, 6:15 p.m.
Change -St. Nicholas Play, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday -**Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas, 9:00 a.m.**
Friday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
-Teens: Room in the Inn, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
-Doctrine on Draft, 7:30 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

DIVINE LITURGY

Thursday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip
HOLY BREAD: Sarah Hodges
COFFEE HOUR: Claire van Drimmelen, Marjo Labonte

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Basil
READER: Matt Spinolo
USHER: Bill Harter
HOLY BREAD: Reem Mansour
ALTAR SERVERS: Max, Elijah, Brody, Paul
COFFEE HOUR: Young Adults

The NATIVITY FAST began November 15 - It is divided into two periods. The 1st period is November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The 2nd period is December 20th through 24th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

COMMEMORATIONS

December 2: Prophet Habakkuk; Martyrs Abibos the New and Myrope of Chios; Venerable Theophilos and Andrew of Egypt; Urosh, Serbian king; Venerable Ioanikios of Devitch.

December 3: Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonios); Martyrs Agapios and Seleukos; New-martyr Angelis of Chios; Venerable Theodoulos of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Gabriel, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Cosmas of St. Anne skete on Athos; Venerable Sabbas of Zvenigorod, disciple of Sergios of Radonezh.

December 4: Great-martyr Barbara of Heliopolis in Syria; Venerable John of Damascus; Martyr Juliana; New-hieromartyr Seraphim, bishop of Phanar in Greece.

December 5: Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified; Martyr Diogenes; Venerable Nektarios of Iagri Kelli and Philotheos of Karyes on Athos; Venerable-martyrs from the kellia of Karyes on Athos; Gurius, missionary bishop of Kazan; Venerable Nektarios of Bitolj.

December 6: Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; New-martyr Nicholas of Karamania in Asia Minor.

December 7: Ambrose, Bishop of Milan; Martyr Athenodoros of Mesopotamia; Venerable Gregory, founder of Gregoriou monastery on Athos; Venerable Gerasimos; Venerable Anthony of Sia and Neilos of Stolb Island; Venerable Philothea of Thrace.

December 8: Patapios the Righteous of Thebes; Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus; Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Crispos, Caesar and Epaphroditos of the Seventy; Martyr Parthenios.

December 9: The Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos by Righteous Anna.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 2 - 9

Sunday	Ephesians	6:10-17	Luke	18:35-43
Monday	2 Timothy	2:20-26	Luke	20:27-44
Tuesday	Galatians	3:23-29; 4:1-5	Mark	5:24-34
Wednesday	Galatians	5:22-26; 6:1-2	Matt	11:27-30
Thursday	Hebrews	13:17-21	Luke	6:17-23
Friday	Titus	1:15-16; 2:1-10	Luke	21:37-38, 22:1-8
Saturday	Ephesians	1:16-23	Luke	13:19-29
Sunday	Galatians	4:22-27	Luke	13:10-17



Pray for our catechumen: Frank Poppa, Sharon Taylor

Please remember in your prayers – Sister Thekla, 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



Teens – On Friday, December 7, the teens will be cooking and serving for the local Room in the Inn program for the homeless.

Young Adults – On Saturday, December 8 at 7 pm, the young adults will be meeting at Mortimer’s Restaurant for Doctrine on Draft. This month’s theme, the Beatitudes.

Caroling at King’s Daughters and Sons – We will be caroling once again at King’s Daughters and Sons Home in Bartlett on Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us as we roam the halls and sing to the residents. This is truly a blessed time for all!

Nativity Decoration Coordinator Needed – We have the decorations, we just need a point-person! If you would like to coordinate the decoration of our nave and parish hall for Nativity, please contact the office.

Nativity Feast Coordinator Needed – We will need someone to organize the set up and clean up efforts for the feast. Please contact Trish if you would like to serve in this way!

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!

Catechumen/Inquirers Class will meet on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. We will finish discussing the Holy Mysteries.

NEW Bible Study – Dn. Sidney is leading a bi-weekly Bible study on the book of Ephesians. The next meeting will be Saturday, December 15 at 4:30 p.m. downstairs in the old parish hall. Everyone is welcome!

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.

Parish Council Update – The next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 11. Since the last meeting, the council approved for Palladio to build new custom doors for the front of the Church. Lord willing, they will be installed in January. Quality work takes time! If you have any specific issues that the council should address, please let one of the council members know.

AWSJ Women’s Teaching will be next be held on December 13th at 10:00 a.m. We are studying *Prayer: Encounter with the Living God* by Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev. **Please call the office if you would like to host.**

PARISH WISH LIST

Christmas Tree for St. Raphael Hall (artificial, prices vary, approx. \$1200+)	Changing tables for 3 bathrooms (\$300 ea.)
Library bookshelves	Utility Shelves - Storage Room
Large Dust Mop for Hall (\$35 ea.)	Push Broom for Hall (\$25 ea.)

A wish list has been compiled of items that we would love to have for our community. The list can be found on the online sign ups page of the website as well. If you would like to purchase and donate one of the items, please contact the office. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards an item, please note on the check what you would like it used for.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Tuesday, 12/4:	<i>John of Damascus: Alex Mansour</i> <i>St. Barbara: Mia Shleweet, Kathy Shaheen</i>
Thursday, 12/6:	<i>St. Nicholas of Myra: William Labonte, Nicholas Hill,</i> <i>Nicholas Williams, Soren Ortwein, Damon Boiles,</i> <i>Larry Ichniowski, Weston Sanderlin</i>
Friday, 12/7:	Mitch Childress, Mindy Williams
Saturday, 12/8:	Andrew Mitchell

Library Lines

In December we honor several Old Testament saints, including the Minor Prophets. The Prophet Habakkuk (12/2) prophesied the destruction of the Temple, the Babylonian captivity and the birth of Christ. He had fled the Holy Land during the Babylonian war, but he was taken back there by angel and ministered to the imprisoned Prophet Daniel. He is perhaps one of the most well-known Minor Prophets to us; on every Pascha we sing of him and his message of hope in Christ.

Saint Myrope (12/2) lived in the third century. Her devotion and loyalty led to her martyrdom and, as frequently occurs, her own martyrdom led to the salvation and martyrdom of others. After the pious soldier, Isidore, was killed for his faith, guards were posted to keep Christians from taking his body. Under darkness, Myrope removed and buried it. When the guards were threatened with torture for failing to perform their duty, Myrope admitted compassionately taking the body and was martyred. One of her guards related her story to a priest, was baptized and later martyred himself.

The Prophet Zephaniah (12/3) is known also by the name Sophronios. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and helped the boy king Josiah destroy idol worship. He is often shown as

resembling St. John the Theologian. He and the Prophet Habakkuk (12/2) were both descended from the tribe of Simeon. Habakkuk prophesied the Babylonian captivity and the return to Jerusalem. During this period, he lived in Arabia. However, while taking food to workers in the fields, he was miraculously transported to the Prophet Daniel in Babylon and fed him there. We also honor him during Holy Week when we sing in the Paschal canon, "Foreseeing your divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: 'Thou shattered the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.'" "Read more about the Minor Prophets in *Christ in His Saints* (HAG - - - REA).

St. Barbara (12/4), a 4th century saint, was a beautiful child and her father, Dioscoros, was extremely devoted to her. He hid her from strangers, in a tower where only her pagan teachers were allowed to see her. From there she could view her surroundings. She contemplated the world around her and the Author of such a beautiful creation. Gradually, she became convinced that the idols were merely the work of human hands. The desire to know the True God so consumed her soul that Barbara decided to devote all her life to this goal in virginity. When Dioscoros permitted her to leave Barbara met a priest from Alexandria. He instructed her in the Faith and baptized her. Barbara told her father of how she had come to know about the saving power of the Son of God and the futility of worshipping idols. Dioscoros became enraged and chased her, beat her, and placed her under guard, attempting to wear her down with hunger. He then handed her over to the prefect of the city who beat her incessantly. By night she prayed fervently to Christ and He came and healed her. Then her torturers began again. Finally, St. Barbara was beheaded with Dioscoros himself delivering the fatal blow to his own daughter. Soon afterwards, he was killed by lightning. We ask her intercession for deliverance from a sudden, unexpected death without the benefit of the Holy Mysteries of Christ. Read more about her in *The Encyclopedia of the Major Saints and Fathers* (HAG - - ELE) and *Forty Saints* (HAG - - - SAO).

St. John of Damascus (12/4) was a vigorous defender of Orthodoxy and is associated with an unusual icon. He defended the veneration of icons during the eighth-century Iconoclast period. Consequently, his enemies slandered him before the emperor, and the caliph ordered his hand be cut off as punishment. He pressed it to his wrist and prayed to the Theotokos for healing. She appeared to him in a dream and told him to work unceasingly with his restored hand to praise her Son and defend the true Faith. A small red mark remained on his wrist as a reminder and is shown on icons of him. He had a silver model of his hand attached to an icon of her, which is now known as the "Icon of Three Hands." He then entered a monastery and lived in strict asceticism and obedience. There he wrote some of our most beautiful hymns including many of those in the funeral service. We ask his intercessions for help in singing our praises to God. St. John lived to be over 100 years old and died peacefully. For more on him look at *The Encyclopedia of the Major Saints* (HAG - - - ELE), *Poets and Hymnographers of the Church* (HAG - - - TAR), *Stories of Saints from the Prologue*, (KID STS MAN), and *St. John of Damascus: Monk, Theologian and Hymnographer* (HAG COM ISA), a CD.

St. Sava the Sanctified (12/5) was a pious child from his youth. He entered a monastery when he was 8 years old. He was tonsured at 17 and excelled in fasting and prayer. He was blessed by his elder, who called him a "child-elder", to live in solitude. At the abbot's death he lived in a cave. Monks began to gather around him and the first of several monasteries were established. He wrote the first monastic Rule of services which was used by all the monasteries in Palestine. Find more about him in *Saint Sava the Sanctified* (HAG SAV POP) and *The Story of St. Sava the Sanctified* (KID STS SAV).