

From the Fathers (and others):

If you want to be a just person, assign to each aspect of yourself - to your soul and your body - what accords with it. To the intelligent aspect of the soul assign spiritual reading, contemplation and prayer; to the incensive aspect, spiritual love, the opposite of hatred; to the desiring aspect, moderation and self-control; to the fleshly part, food and clothing, for these alone are necessary.

St. Maximos the Confessor

Let us exercise force on ourselves, driving away evil prejudices and habits. For the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force (Matt. 11:12).

St. Gregory Palamas

Three virtues invariably bring light to the mind: never to see evil intentions in anyone; to suffer everything that befalls without being troubled; and to do good to evil-doers. These three virtues give birth to yet three others, greater than they: not seeing evil intentions gives birth to love; untroubled bearing of what befalls gives birth to meekness; doing good to evil-doers brings peace.

From the monks Callistus and Ignatius

It is much better to think that our death will come sooner than the end of the world, rather than that the end of the world will come before our death.

St. Seraphim of Sarov

...grace, once it has been conferred as a result of the purification of the intellect and the inner being, completely removes the veil in which man was wrapped by Satan after the fall, expelling every defilement and every sordid thought from the soul. Its aim is to cleanse the soul, so enabling it to recover its original nature and to contemplate the glory of the true light with clear, unimpeded eyes. Once this is achieved, man is here and now raised to the eternal world and perceives its beauty and its wonder... such a man, his intellect illumined and purified, always contemplates the never-setting light of the Lord.

St. Makarios of Egypt

The Fathers have declared the singing of psalms to be a weapon, prayer to be a wall, and honest tears to be a bath ... without which no one subject to passions will see the Lord.

St. John Climacus

We should emulate the patience, humility and faith of our Fathers whom God inspired. 'Whose faith follow', it says, 'considering the end of their manner of life' (Heb. 13:7).

St. Gregory Palamas

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



*~ December 30, 2018 ~
Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord*

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

Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Karen Bell**

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

Dec. 30 – Jan. 6

(NO FAST: Through Jan.4 FAST: Jan. 5)

- Sunday** -
Monday - First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
- Great Vespers for St. Basil, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday - OFFICE CLOSED
Wednesday - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
- Parish Meal, 6:15 p.m.
Thursday - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
Friday - Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m.
- Young Adult 11th Day of Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday - Orthros, 9:00 a.m.
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- MS River Blessing following liturgy
- Lunch at parish following blessing
- Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday - **Church School & Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
- **Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
- **Sanctification of the Water**

DIVINE LITURGY

Saturday, January 5, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip

READER:

HOLY BREAD: Dn. Charles

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, January 6, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip

READER: John Cameron

USHER: Aaron White

HOLY BREAD: Anne Castrodale

ALTAR SERVERS: Zach, Nicholas, Eli, Gabe

COFFEE HOUR: HELP NEEDED

COMMEMORATIONS

December 30: Virgin-martyr Anysia of Thessalonika; Martyr Philetairos of Nicomedia; Venerable Leon; Venerable-martyr Gideon of Karakallou monastery on Athos; Makarios, Metropolitan of Moscow.

December 31: Venerable Melania the younger of Rome; Hieromartyr Zotikos the friend of orphans; Venerable Theophylact of Ochrid.

January 1: The Circumcision in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; New-martyr Peter of the Peloponnesos.

January 2: Sylvester, Pope of Rome; Cosmas, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Theogenes of Parium; Martyrs Sergios and Theopistos; New-martyr Zorzis; Venerable Theodote and Neilos; Repose of Venerable Seraphim of Sarov; Righteous Juliana the Merciful, of Lazarevsk.

January 3: Martyr Gordios of Cappadocia; Prophet Malachi; Venerable Thomaidos; Venerable Genevieve of Paris.

January 4: The synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles; Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily; Venerable-martyrs Euthymios and his twelve companions of Vatopedi monastery on Athos; Venerable-martyr Onouphrios the deacon of Hilandar monastery on Athos; Eustathios, archbishop of Serbia.

January 5: Martyrs Theopemptos the bishop of Nicomedia and Theonas; Venerable Syncletica of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Romanos of Athos.

January 6: The Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ. Venerable Makarios Makris of Vatopedi monastery on Athos and Pantocratoros monastery in Constantinople.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS			Dec. 30 – Jan. 6	
Sunday	Galatians	1:11-19	Matt	2:13-23
Monday	James	2:14-26	Mark	12:13-17
Tuesday	Colossians	2:8-12	Luke	2:20-21, 40-52
Wednesday	Hebrews	5:4-10	John	3:1-15
Thursday	2 Timothy	4:5-8	John	1:18-28
Friday	1 Corinthians	4:9-16	John	1:18-28
Saturday	1 Timothy	3:13-16; 4:1-5	Matt	3:1-6
Sunday	Titus	2:11-14; 3:4-7	Matt	3:13-17

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, 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



Bible Study – The bible study on Ephesians led by Dn. Sidney will resume on Jan. 12, at 4:30 p.m..

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

Young Adult 11th Day of Christmas Party! All young adults are invited to a 11th Day of Christmas Party on Friday, January 4 at 6 pm. Come for lots of wonderful fun and fellowship!

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.

Sons of Thunder Men’s Book Club – The men will meet at 6pm on Sunday, January 13th at Dn. James’s home to discuss *The Aviator* by Eugene Vodolazhkin. All men are welcome.

Parish Council Update – As we approach the end of the year, efforts are being made to update the Church financial software and to complete projects begun throughout 2018. We have had quite a momentous year!! May the Lord bless the end of this year and may He guide us in the year to come! Thank you for all of your continued support!!

Women of St. John Calendar

Monday, 1/7

AWSJ Book Club – 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela’s home. We will be discussing *Holiness* by Monk Moses

Thursday, 1/10

Women’s Teaching - 10:00 a.m., We are studying “Prayer: Encounter with the Living God” by Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev

Saturday, 1/26

Save the date! Baby Shower for Leah Shull! More details to come.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 12/30:	Sean Paden
Monday, 12/31:	Mikael Santana <i>St. Melania: Melanie Stanek</i>
Tuesday, 12/1:	Lena Khlaifat <i>St. Basil: Fr. Basil, Eric Surber, Bill Harter, Bill Stanek, Adam Sanderlin</i>
Wednesday, 12/2:	<i>St. Seraphim: Chris Utley, Karen Wells, Janna Knight</i> <i>St. Juliana: Claire van Drimmelen, Nelvia Agnew, Giuliana Yzaguirre</i>
Friday, 1/4:	Sophia Garrison
Saturday, 1/5:	Kendall Ichniowski

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

Friday, January 4

Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 5

Orthros, 9:00 a.m.

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

Great Sanctification of Water

Library Lines

We begin the new year by honoring a heroine for young women in our Church. Righteous Juliana of Lazarevo (1/2) lived a devout childhood. After her parents' death she remained steadfast in the Faith and in her love and care for the poor, even though her guardians mocked her. Her pious life drew the attention of the village owner, and they married. Her in-laws saw a treasure in her, and young Juliana was given charge of their household. She spent her life in prayer and caring for the poor and sick. After the death of two of her six children, she longed for the monastic life but remained in the world to care for her family and all who crossed her path. One of her sons wrote the about her life of selfless love, asceticism and visits from St. Nicholas. She was buried in 1604 next to her husband and daughter in the village church. She is the patron of several at St. John, and her icon is in the nave above the Myrrh-bearing women.

Thursday we remember the Prophet Malachi (1/3), known as the “seal of the prophets” because he is the last of the Old Testament prophets. He had the appearance of an angel, and one was his companion and reiterated his prophecies. It is thought by some that he lived during the lifetimes of Ezra and Nehemiah. He confronted problems of intermarriage between Jews and pagans and of infidelity with their Hebrew wives. This and the negligent offering of tithes, he saw as signs of weakening devotion to family and God. He prophesied the coming of the Forerunner and Christ, and also the Last Judgment. The Book of Malachi was written about 440 B.C.

Wednesday of last week we commemorated the synaxis of the Theotokos (12/26). In November we remembered the Synaxis of the Archangels. Friday(1/4) the synaxis honors the Seventy, men who Christ appointed to travel two by two to the cities He would visit. Some of them, Sts. Mark and Luke the Evangelists, Timothy, Barnabas and Prochorus, are familiar to us; most are not. They all have their own feast days, but the Church commemorates them all together today. Synaxis means a coming together for a specific purpose. Liturgically, it usually describes an assembly to honor someone connected with an event that has just been celebrated.