

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 9, 2018 ~
Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos

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

www.stjohnmemphis.org

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

Conception of the Theotokos

Epistle: Galatians 4:22-27

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Reem Mansour**.

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 9 - 16 (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.
-Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
-Wednesday Teaching, 6:15 p.m.,
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home
Friday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 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

Sunday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip
READER: Jack Turner
USHER: Jack Turner
HOLY BREAD: Dn. Charles
ALTAR SERVERS: Zach, Nicholas, Eli, Gabe
COFFEE HOUR: Anna Pashchinskaya, NEED HELP

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

December 10: Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugephos of Alexandria; Venerable Thomas of Bithynia; Joasaph, bishop of Belgorod; Angelina of Albania, mother of Blessed John, king of Serbia.

December 11: Venerable Daniel the Stylite, Luke the New Stylite, Noman and Leontios; Martyr Barsabbas of Persia.

December 12: Spyridon the Wonderworker, bishop of Trymithous; John, metropolitan of Zichnon.

December 13: Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentios, Eugene, Mardarios, and Orestes at Sebaste; Virgin-martyr Lucia of Syracuse; Hieromartyr Gabriel, patriarch of Serbia; repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska, wonderworker of America.

December 14: Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios and Kallinikos of Apollonia; Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Hypatios and Arrianos of Alexandria.

December 15: Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Anthia; Venerable Paul of Latra; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh; Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga.

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



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



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 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.

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 Directory – New directories can be found downstairs. If you are new, or have had any address/phone/email changes, please review to be sure your information is correct. If you need to make updates, email them to tratliff@stjohnmemphis.org.

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.

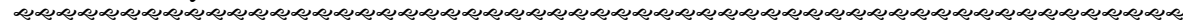
AWSJ Women’s Teaching will be next be held on December 13th at 10:00 a.m. at Judy Terry’s home. We are studying *Prayer: Encounter with the Living God* by Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 9 - 16

Sunday	Galatians	4:22-27	Luke	13:10-17
Monday	Hebrews	3:5-11, 17-19	Mark	8:11-21
Tuesday	Hebrews	4:1-13	Mark	8:22-26
Wednesday	Ephesians	5:8-19	John	10:9-16
Thursday	Hebrews	7:1-6	Mark	9:10-15
Friday	Hebrews	7:18-25	Mark	9:33-41
Saturday	2 Timothy	1:8-18	Mark	2:23-28; 3:1-5
Sunday	Colossians	3:4-11	Luke	14:16-24



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.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 12/9:	Charlie Harvey
Monday, 12/10:	Thea Wallace, Kevin Sanderlin <i>St. Angelina, Christi Yadron</i>
Wednesday, 12/12:	Justin Vanlandingham <i>St. Spyridon: Rick Yadron, Kevin Sanderlin</i>
Thursday, 12/13:	<i>St. Lucia: Lucy Hight, Ruby Ortwein</i>
Friday, 12/14:	Elinor Crenshaw

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.

Nativity Celebration

We will continue to celebrate Nativity following Divine Liturgy on December 24 (early morning of the 25th). The church will provide: deli trays for sandwiches, tea, champagne.

We ask that those who are able bring one or more of the following:

- chips
- simple side item in disposable dish
- dessert
- wine or beer

We would like for this celebration to be enjoyable for everyone and to have as little set up and clean up as possible!

Library Lines

Today our young readers are honoring one of St. John Library's most popular authors, Jane G. Meyer. Take a look at the new bulletin downstairs and you will see her books on display as well as recommendations on our children's favorite ones.

Many of us remember stories from Sunday School about the Prophet Samuel. Today we commemorate his mother Hannah (12/9). She like, Sts. Sarah, Anna, and Elizabeth, was childless. She prayed fervently to God for a child and promised to give him to God's service. Once while in prayer in the temple, a priest scolded her because he thought she was drunk. She cried and explained her sorrow to him. He blessed her and she later conceived. When her child Samuel was young, Hannah presented him in the temple and he remained there to serve God. Read more about her in *Christ In His Saints* (HAG - - - REA).

The Blessed Angelina (12/10) was a 16th century Serbian princess. She and her husband, Stephan, were the parents of St. John of Serbia. When the Turks threatened the family, they fled to Albania and then Italy. She lived as a monastic after the death of her husband and son. Their relics were incorrupt and many were healed by those who venerated them. Read about her life in *Married Saints of the Church* HAG - - -MOS.

Tuesday, we honor Sts. Daniel, (12/11) and Luke who belong to a category of saints known as stylites, who are considered Fools for Christ. These men engaged in strict asceticism by praying and fasting by standing for years on pillars. The Venerable Daniel (12/11) received his name in an unusual manner. His mother had been barren for a number of years and promised to dedicate her son to God if He granted her petition for a child. When the boy was born, his parents decided that God should name him since he was a gift from Him. The child was taken to the monastery where the abbot randomly opened the Bible to the book of Daniel. He went to live there at age twelve and was visited frequently by his parents. He excelled in his ascetical efforts as predicted by St. Simeon the Stylite. When he ascended his pillar, common people and emperors came to him for healing and counsel. He died at the age of 80.

St. Spyridon (12/12) was born in Crete in the third century. Many stories are told about this man of God. At the First Ecumenical Council he showed the doctrine of the Trinity in this way. He squeezed a brick and instantly fire shot out of it, water dripped from his hands on the ground, and only dust remained in his hands. He proclaimed, "There was only one brick, but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God." Another story tells of his robbers planning to steal his sheep after night fall. After breaking into the pen, they found themselves unexplainably tied up there. Upon seeing them the next morning, St. Spyridon gave them the sheep and said, "Take them for your trouble, so that you did not spend a sleepless night in vain." Look for other stories about him in *Stories of Saints from the Prologue* (KID STS MAN)

St. Lucia's feast day (12/13) is celebrated by the Orthodox faithful and in the Scandinavian culture. Her suitor denounced her as a Christian because she spurned him for her vow of virginity. She was thrust through by a sword during the reign of Diocletian in 304. Read about the celebration of her feast day in *Lucia: Saint of Light* (KID STS LUC).