

From the Fathers (and others):

Prepare for me the way of salvation, O Theotokos; for I have profaned myself with coarse sins, and consumed my whole life with procrastination. But by thine intercessions purify thou me from all abomination.

If I think upon the multitude of my evil deeds, wretch that I am, I tremble for the terrible Day of Judgment. But, trusting the compassion of Thy mercy, I shout to Thee like David, Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy.

Lenten Hymns from Orthros

Never confuse the person, formed in the image of God, with the evil that is in him: because evil is but a chance misfortune, an illness, a devilish reverie. But the very essence of the person is the image of God, and this remains in him despite every disfigurement.

St. John of Kronstadt

Only where Christ dwells is there blessedness. Where Christ blesses there is heavenly repose. Where Christ turns His benevolent gaze there is inexpressible true joy. Christ, with His unceasing love for us and His great humility, loves us and invisibly reproves us and reminds us through His miracles that there is life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

St. Raphael

It is of great significance if there is a person who truly prays in a family. Prayer attracts God's grace and all the members of the family feel it, even those whose hearts have grown cold. Pray always.

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Let us cleanse our souls by repentance and tears, wash them with fasting and prayer and clothe them in garments woven in purity and love and adorned with all good works, and especially those of forgiveness and compassion. Let us do that little that God seeks of us, and He will do the rest.

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

A brother said to Abba Peomen, "Give me a word," and he said to him, "As long as the pot is on the fire, no fly nor any other animal can get near it, but as soon as it is cold, these creatures get inside. So it is for the monk; as long as he lives in spiritual activities, the enemy cannot find a means of overthrowing him."

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Our all-good and very merciful God, my brethren, even if we sin a thousand times an hour, has compassion on us as a father and does not cause us to die, to put us in hell, but waits with open arms for our repentance, for the time when we will repent, will stop doing evil and will do what is good, will confess, will correct ourselves, in order to embrace us and put us in Paradise to rejoice forever.

St. Cosmas Aiotolos

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ February 24, 2019 ~

Triodion

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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

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 Prodigal Son

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by the **Harvey Family**.

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

February 24- March 3 (Fast Wed & Fri)

Sunday -No Teen Group
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Dino's
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Parish Meal, 5:30 p.m.
-Teen Group, 5:30 p.m.
-Teaching, 6:15 p.m., Time: Daily Cycle of Services
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Michael Elliot's home
Friday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
Saturday -**Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m., Saturday of Souls**
-Bible Study, 4:30 p.m.
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -**Church School & Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

Upcoming Baptisms

Callum Knight, March 23

DIVINE LITURGY

Saturday, March 2, 9:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip
HOLY BREAD: Dn. Charles
COFFEE HOUR: NO VOLUNTEERS

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, March 3, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Basil
READER: Matt Spinolo
USHER: Ervin Romero
HOLY BREAD: Karen Bell
ALTAR SERVERS: Max, Elijah B., Brody, Dashiell, volunteer
POTLUCK: NO VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE HELP

COMMEMORATIONS

February 24: The first and second discoveries of the honorable head of the Forerunner.

February 25: Tarasios, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyrs Reginos, bishop of Skopelos, and Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria; Martyr Alexander of Markianopolis.

February 26: Prophyrios, bishop of Gaza; Great-martyr Photeini the Samaritan Woman and those with her; Martyr Theoklitos and those with him; New-martyr John of Constantinople.

February 27: Venerable Prokopios the Confessor of Decapolis; Martyrs Galasios of Heliopolis and Nisios; New-martyr Elias.

February 28: Venerable Basil the Confessor, companion of Prokopios of Decapolis; Hieromartyr Proterios, patriarch of Alexandria; Apostles Nympha and Euvoulos; New-martyr Kyranna. Venerable John Cassian the Roman (in non-leap years).

February 29: Venerable John Cassian the Roman.

March 1: Venerable-martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis; Venerable Domnina of Syria; Martyrs Markellos and Anthony of Pamphylia; Venerable Agapios of Vatopedi monastery on Athos; Venerable David of Wales, bishop of Menevia.

March 2: Theodotos, bishop of Cyrenia; Martyr Hesychios the Senator; Virgin-martyr Euthanlia of Sicily; Arsenios, bishop of Tver.

March 3: Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea; Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			Feb. 24 – Mar. 3
Sunday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Luke 15:11-32
Monday	1 John	2:18-29; 3:1-8	Mark 11:1-11
Tuesday	1 John	3:9-22	Mark 14:10-42
Wednesday	1 John	3:21-24; 4:1-11	Mark 14:43-72; 15:1
Thursday	1 John	4:20-21; 5:1-21	Mark 15:1-15
Friday	2 John	1:1-13	Mark 15:20, 22, 25, 33-41
Saturday	1 Thess	4:13-17	Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
Sunday	1 Corinthians	8:8-13, 9:1-2	Matt 25:31-46



Pray for our catechumen: Frank Pompa

Please remember in your prayers – Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Nicholas Hill, Leah Shull (pregnant), Ashley Powell (pregnant), Sarah Elliott (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), Dot Lawson (Pam Bowick’s mother & Lawson’s grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha’s daughter), Chris Hodges, Mickey Hodges, Matthew (Joyce Grossman’s grandson), St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



SAVE THE DATE - Bishop Nicholas will be visiting St. John **March 22-27**. Details will be forthcoming.

Catechumen/Inquirers Class –Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing Great Lent. Catechumen/Inquirers class is open to anyone interested in learning more about our faith whether you are brand new, catechumen, or long-time member.

Men’s Quarter Dinner – The men will meet at Michael Elliott’s home for their quarterly dinner on Thurs., Feb. 28 at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP online so enough food is ordered. All Men of St. John are welcome to attend!

Camp St. Thekla – If you have a child attending Camp St. Thekla this summer, please let Fr. Philip know if you would like to receive scholarship money.

Meatfare Potluck – Meatfare is next Sunday, March 3. We traditionally gather following liturgy on Judgment Sunday to share this potluck meal as our last opportunity to eat meat together before the great fast begins. If you would like to support us in keeping this tradition, please check the white coffee hour board to sign up for either set up or clean up.

Lenten Meals – During Lent each year, St. John has shared a meal offered by one or more parishioners following each Wednesday presanctified liturgy and on Holy Thursday. Typically, one can count on feeding 70-75 people. If you (or a group of your friends) would like to provide one of these meals, the dates are listed downstairs on the white board next to the elevator.

Psalter Groups

The Psalter is the book of Psalms divided into 20 sections called kathismata. During Lent, individual members of a Psalter group of 20 will read 1 Kathisma per day, resulting in the Psalter being read in its entirety each day by the group. By the end of the fast, each individual will have read through the entire Psalter twice. Additionally, each group member commits to praying for each other daily. Everyone would read and pray at home (or the place of their choosing) at a convenient time for them each day. Although we are not in the same physical location, we will be together in prayer.

To be added to a group, contact:

AWSJ -Trish Ratliff

Men of St. John – Dn. James

Parish Council Update – Thank you to all those who helped make Dinner and a Show a great success! As was mentioned, the proceeds of the ticket sales will go toward the annual project of the Antiochian Women of the Archdiocese and the dessert auction will help to pay down our mortgage. The next parish council meeting will be March 5.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 2/24: Kh. Kathryn

Monday, 2/25: Sophia Mansour

Tuesday, 2/26: *St. Photini: Dianna Hildebrand, Mary Clark, Janine Smith*

Thursday, 2/28: Dn. Sidney, Moriah Crum

Saturday, 3/2: Ava Ortwein, Don Eastman, David Yarbro

Teen Group This Week

Sunday, No Teen Group

Wednesday, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming:

March 8: Grizzly game – Let Drew know if you are planning to attend

Young Adults Calendar

(Ages 18 – 40)

Sunday, Mar. 3 – Doctrine on Draft, 6:00 p.m., Alchemy

Saturday, Apr. 13 – Crawfish Boil, Clark McGee's home

Women of St. John Calendar

Mon., 3/4 **AWSJ Book Club** – 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home. We will be discussing *Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth. The 2019 book list can be found on the website for those interested. (Parish – AWSJ – Book Club)

Thurs., 3/7 **Women's Teaching** - 10:00 a.m., at Kh. Pamela's home. We are studying "Prayer: Encounter with the Living God" by Met. Hilarion

Library Lines

What does catching pigs have to do with the Prodigal Son??? Take a closer look at this familiar parable in *The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to St. Luke* (REF PAT THE) by Blessed Theophylact. For more insight into this parable and others, see *The Parables* (SCR COM ROY) by Archbishop Dimitri, *Forty Gospel Homilies* (REF PAT GRE) by St. Gregory

the Great, *Return: Repentance and Confession: Return to God and to His Church* by Archm. Nektarios Antonopoulos (CAT SAC ANT) and *The Parables of Christ* (KID BIB SPI).

Today (2/24), we commemorate the first and second finding of the head of St. John the Forerunner. This event, as well as the topics of relics leaves many people shaking their heads. We all know that Herod's wife buried St. John's head in ignominy. What most of us don't know is that St. Johanna (6/27), one of the Myrrhbearers, secretly took it and buried it on the Mount of Olives. Many years later it was found by a monk who was building the foundation for a church. Fearing it would be dishonored after his death, he re-buried it in the same place. It was found again by two monks who gave it to a potter who reverently cared for it. It was revered for many generations until it came into the possession of an Arian priest who buried it in a cave. Years later St. John appeared to pious monks who were building a monastery and told them the location of his head. It was then taken to Constantinople.

We honor two Samaritan women saints this week, St. Photini (2/26) and St. Eudokia (3/1). St. Photini is a patron of several at St. John as is known to all of us as the woman to whom Christ asked water at Jacob's well. She is commemorated with her two sons, five sisters, St. Sebastian, and Domnina, the daughter of Nero. When St. Photini learned that her sons and Sebastian had been arrested by Nero, she and her sisters journeyed to Rome and lived under the supervision of Domnina who was then converted by them. The emperor subjected Photini, her family and all the converts to cruel torments and then imprisoned them for three years. They were then flayed, one was torn apart and some beheaded. St. Photini was thrown down a well and gave her life to God. Learn more about her in *Christ and His Saints* (HAG - - - REA), *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG - - - MOS), *Saints and Sisterhood* (HAG - - - TOP), and in *Orthodox America*, #162, p. 8.

St. John Cassian has the distinction of being commemorated February 29. His pious parents gave him an excellent classic and spiritual education, and later he was tonsured as a monastic. He spent many years learning from the desert fathers. In his later life, he became a disciple of St. John Chrysostom. He is best known as the author of three great works of the Faith. *Conferences with the Fathers* (PAT JOH), addresses in conversational form purity, understanding Scripture, the four levels of monasticism, repentance and humility. *The Institutes of Cenobitic Life* (PAT JOH) discusses monastic life in Palestine and Egypt and over-coming the eight deadly sins. *On the Incarnation of the Lord, Against Nestorius* opposes heresy on the person of Christ.

St. Eudokia (3/1) lived in Samaria under the reign of the Roman emperor Trajan. She, like St. Mary of Egypt, lived a life of debauchery. One night she awoke to hear Elder Germanus reading about the Last Judgment. Her heart was struck by her sin and great wealth. She repented and was baptized. She then entered a monastery, and God blessed her with spiritual gifts. When she was accused of taking gold from the city and hiding it at the monastery, the troops sent to recover it were miraculously prevented from entering the buildings. On three occasions, relatives of those persecuting the saint died and were restored to life through her prayers. She lived in the monastery for over fifty years. Then, again, a new governor instituted persecutions against the Christians; she was beheaded on the first of March. Read more about her in *Saints and Sisterhood* (HAG- - -TOP).