

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

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

For what else is the feast, but the constant worship of God, and the recognition of godliness, and unceasing prayers from the whole heart with agreement? So Paul wishing us to be ever in this disposition, commands, saying, 'Rejoice evermore; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks.' Not therefore separately, but united and collectively, let us all keep the feast together, as the prophet exhorts, saying, 'O come, let us rejoice in the Lord, let us make a joyful noise unto God our Savior.' Who then is so negligent, or who so disobedient to the divine voice, as not to leave everything, and run to the general and common assembly of the feast?

St. Athanasius the Great

The holy Dominos was indeed worthy of admiration. A friend of St. Cosmas the Zographitan, he led a pure life, laboring in the holy monastery of Esphigmenou (on Mt. Athos). He was under the rule never to stay overnight anywhere else but in his own hut. Once, he found himself near Chilandari, in rain and fog, and not knowing where he was because of the dark and heavy rain, he cried out to the Lord, "Lord Jesus Christ, save me, for I am perishing!" Then an angel of God appeared and snatched him up, and suddenly he found himself safely in front of his own hut. After he reposed in the Lord, the fathers of the monastery smelled a fragrance coming from his tomb for forty days; this fragrance reached the holy monastery even though it was a mile away from the tomb.

Athonite Gerontikon

Be dead in life, and you will not live in death. Let your soul die strenuously, and not live in weakness. Not only those who suffer death for the sake of faith in Christ are martyrs; but also those who die because of their observance of His commandments.

St. Isaac the Syrian

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 Poemen, "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

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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*~ February 3, 2019 ~*  
*Sunday after the Presentation of our Lord*

**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 after the Presentation of our Lord

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Anna Pashchinskaya**.

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 3 – 10 (Fast: Wed & Fri.)

**Sunday** -Teen Group, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
**Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 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.  
-Parish Meal, 5:30 p.m.  
-Teen Group, 5:30 p.m.  
-Teaching, 6:15 p.m., Daily Cycle of Services, continued  
-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** -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.

### Churching Today

Janna & Callum Knight

### Upcoming Baptisms

Gwen Verbist, February 16

Philip Turner, February 23

### DIVINE LITURGY

**Sunday, February 10, 10:00 a.m.**

**PRIEST:** Fr. John

**READER:** Jack Turner

**USHER:** Matt Spinolo

**HOLY BREAD:**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Alex, Nicholas, Eli, Gabe, JD

**COFFEE HOUR:** Young Adults

## COMMEMORATIONS

**February 3:** Holy and Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess; New-martyrs Nicholas, Stamatios and John of Spetson; Anschar, enlightener of Denmark and Sweden; Nicholas, equal-to-the-Apostles, bishop and evangelizer of Japan; James, archbishop of Serbia.

**February 4:** Venerable Isidore of Pelusium; Venerable Nicholas the Confessor of Studion; New-martyr Joseph of Aleppo; George, prince of Vladimir; Venerable Cyril, wonder-worker of Novoezersk.

**February 5:** Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily; Polyuktos, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Anthony of Athens; Venerable Theodosios; repose of Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov.

**February 6:** Boukolos, bishop of Smyrna; Photios the Great, patriarch of Constantinople; Martyr Julian (Ilyan) of Homs, the holy and unmercenary healer.

**February 7:** Parthenios, bishop of Lampsakos; Venerable Luke of Hellas; New-martyr George of Crete.

**February 8:** Great-martyr Theodore the General (“Stratelates”); Prophet Zachariah; Sabbas II, archbishop of Serbia.

**February 9:** Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch; Hieromartyrs Markellos, bishop of Sicily, Pankratios, bishop of Taormina, and Philagrios, bishop of Cyprus; translation of the relics of Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk.

**February 10:** Hieromartyr Haralampos the wonder-worker, bishop of Magnesia; Venerable Zenon.



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Welcome Matushka Jenny Mosher!** Jenny is the Director of the Telos Project, which is run out of Hellenic College/Holy Cross. In addition, she has worked as a grant writer and a catechist in the Catechism of the Good Shepherd program. She is an extremely qualified person with a BA (Yale), MARE (Yale), ThM (St Vladimir’s) and a Doctorate in Religious Education (Union). She is married Fr. Joshua Mosher, the pastor of St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Meriden, CT; and is the mother of three children! We are blessed to have her with us this weekend!!

**Fr. Philip** will be out of the office Friday, Feb. 8 – Sunday, Feb. 10. Please keep him in your prayers as he travels to California for Archdiocesan midwinter meetings.

**Theophany House Blessings – LAST SUNDAY TO SIGN UP** - The sign-up sheet for house blessings can be found on the downstairs in the parish hall. Choose all times slots that are convenient for your family. Fr. Philip will then schedule accordingly and contact you with the actual date and time of your blessing.

**Catechumen/Inquirers Class** –Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7:00 p.m. Catechumen/Inquirers class is open to anyone interested in learning more about our faith whether you are brand new, catechumen, or long-time member. The next session will focus on the Divine Liturgy.

**Opportunities** –Check the white board downstairs to see which date works for your family to host **coffee hour** or to pick up **Wednesday night meals**.

**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.

Let Drew know if you would like for your child to ride in the church van to 2<sup>nd</sup> session.

**Sons of Thunder** Men’s book club will meet on Sunday, Feb. 10 at Bill Stanek’s home. They will be discussing *Ordinary Men* by Christopher Browning.

**Parish Council Update** – As has been mentioned previously, we have now installed a speaker system that runs from the Nave into the nursery and library area of the Church. Lord willing, this will allow those who need to leave the service for any reason to still participate in the worship and hear the sermon and the announcements. In particular, we do ask that parents be mindful of their children during this time. At times, it is difficult for some to hear the sermon and the announcements while in the nave. If your child is more restless during these times, consider moving downstairs where you can still participate. For those without children, always err on the side of patience and love for our young children. We are so glad that they are with us!

### **Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays**

**Sunday, 2/3:**

*Righteous Simeon: JonMark Hetrick*

*Righteous Anna: Anna Pashchinskaya, Trish Ratliff*

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### **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Feb. 3 - 10**

Sunday	2 Corinthians 6:1-10	Matt	25:14-30
Monday	Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:1-3	Mark	5:24-34
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:1-7	Mark	6:1-7
Wednesday	Hebrews 7:26-27; 8:1-2	John	10:9-16
Thursday	Ephesians 4:14-17	Mark	6:30-45
Friday	Ephesians 2:4-10	Matt	10:16-22
Saturday	1 Corinthians 14:20-25	Matt	25:1-13
Sunday	2 Timothy 15:21-28	Matt	15:21-28

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**Pray for our catechumen:** Frank Pompa

**Please remember in your prayers** – Sister Olga , 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.

*Dinner & a Show presents*  
**HEADED WEST BUT STAYIN' EASTERN**

**Date:** Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15/adults & \$5/children 3+

Contact D&S Coordinator, Anne Castrodale, for tickets and questions.

Join us as for St. John's annual talent show, dessert auction, and bake sale. Proceeds from the evening will benefit St. Raphael Hall as well as the national Antiochian Women's project, "Building Cathedrals."

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Dinner: chefs, kitchen help (receive/set out food, clean up) – Thea Wallace, coordinator
- Décor: set-up/take-down – Justin Bowles, coordinator
- Auction/Bake Sale: donations, auction runner – Caitlyn Maas, coordinator
- Talent – Bill Stanek, coordinator
- Bartender

**Teen Group  
This Week**

**Sunday,** Teen Group

**Wednesday,**

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, 2/8** Escape Room

6:00 p.m.

**Upcoming:** If you are interested in riding in the van to CST this summer, contact Drew.

**Young Adults Calendar**

**Sunday, Feb. 3** – Brunch with

Jenny Mosher, 12:30 p.m.

**Monday, Feb. 11** - "Dumping

Debt" w/ Dn. Tim Mashburn, 6 p.m.

**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., 2/4** **AWSJ Book Club** – 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home. We will be discussing *Copy Boy* by Vince Vawter. The 2019 book list can be found on the website for those interested. Parish – AWSJ – Book Club

**Thurs., 2/7** **Women's Teaching** - 10:00 a.m., Judy Terry's home. We are studying "Prayer: Encounter with the Living God" by Met. Hilarion

**Library Lines**

Today we commemorate two saints; one who lived in the land of the Rising Sun and the other from the homeland of Hans Christian Anderson. St. Anschar (2/3) was called the apostle to the North because he spread the Gospel in the ninth century in Jutland, now Denmark, and Sweden. There, he introduced the use of bells which the native people considered magical instruments. He founded hospitals and persuaded the king to relax the slave-trade in the land. Little of his writings remain; however, his introduction to the life of St. Willehad, the first bishop of Bremen, is considered a masterpiece for that age. St. Anschar's desire for martyrdom was never granted.

St. Nicholas (2/3), born and ordained as a priest in Russia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was sent to Japan by his own request. He spent eight years studying the language and customs of the people because, he said, "the Japanese of the time looked upon foreigners as beasts, and on Christianity as a villainous sect..." His flock numbered 20 in 1877 and by 1911 there were 33,000 Christians in Japan. He founded schools and a seminary, compiled an Orthodox theological dictionary in Japanese and built the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Tokyo. Read more about his life in *Saint Nikolai Kasatkin and the Orthodox Mission in Japan* (HAG NIK VAN), *New Apostles of Christ* (HAG - - - HAT), "Orthodox Missions: Lessons from the Past" in *Orthodox America*, Nov.-Dec. 1993, p. 5 and in "Enlightener of Japan: Blessed Nicholas Kasatkin" in *Orthodox America* Jan.-Feb. 1992, p. 5.

Friday we honor the Prophet Zachariah (2/8). He was called the sickle-seer because had a vision in which he saw a sickle flying in the air and destroying evil doers. He prophesied very specific events in the life of Christ, including the Triumphal Entry, the piercing of his side and the darkening of the sun at the crucifixion.

Saturday of this week we commemorate the translation of the relics of St. Innocent of Irkutsk (2/9). Read more about him in *New Apostles of Christ* (HAG - - - HAT) and *Recently Canonized Saints* (HAG - - - DEV). Hardly a week goes by that the Church doesn't observe the uncovering or translation of a saint's relics. So, what's so important about it? *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (HIS CRO) donates a page to this practice explaining that it is even practiced in Buddhism and is "based on the natural instinct of men to treat with reverence what is left of the dead they loved." A more readable explanation is given in *The Pearl* by Michael Whelton. (CAT/GEN/WHE) Chapter VI gives us his answers to questions frequently asked by Protestants, or former ones like most of us. His concise answer concerning relics begins on page 139. Kallistos Ware connects this practice with the theology of the body in *The Orthodox Church* (CAT/GEN/WAR). See chapter 11. See also *Holy Relics* by T. L. Frazier (CAT/SPEC/FRA) and *The Truth of Our Faith* by Elder Cleopa (PAT CLE), pp. 95-103. For a shorter discourse, read "Can These Bones Live?" in *Road to Emmaus*, spring 2006, p. 63.