

From the Fathers (and others):

The commemoration of Christ's saving Passion is at hand, and the new, great spiritual Passover, which is the reward for dispassion and the prelude of the world to come. Lazarus proclaims it in advance by coming back from the depths of Hades and rising from the dead on the fourth day just by voice and command of God, Who has power over life and death (cf. Jn. 11:1-45).

St. Gregory Palamas

Yesterday the Lamb was slain and the door-posts were anointed, and Egypt bewailed her Firstborn, and the Destroyer passed us over, and the Seal was dreadful and reverend, and we were walled in with the Precious Blood. Today we have clean escaped from Egypt and from Pharaoh; and there is none to hinder us from keeping a Feast to the Lord our God — the Feast of our Departure; or from celebrating that Feast, not in the old leaven of malice and wickedness, but in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, carrying with us nothing of ungodly and Egyptian leaven.

Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him. But let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us — you will think perhaps that I am going to say gold, or silver, or woven work or transparent and costly stones, the mere passing material of earth, that remains here below, and is for the most part always possessed by bad men, slaves of the world and of the Prince of the world. Let us offer ourselves, the possession most precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity; let us honor our Archetype; let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died.

St Gregory the Theologian

“Therefore, come, all families of men, you who have been befouled with sins, and receive forgiveness for your sins. I am your forgiveness. I am the passover of your salvation. I am the lamb which was sacrificed for you. I am your ransom. I am your light. I am your saviour. I am your resurrection. I am your king. I am leading you up to the heights of heaven. I will show you the eternal Father. I will raise you up by my right hand.”

St Melito of Sardis

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



~ April 28, 2019 ~

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

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

Great & Holy Pascha

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by the **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

April 28 – May 5 (Fast free)

- Sunday** -No Morning Services
-Agape Vespers, 3:30 p.m.
-Agape Picnic & Egg Hunt following Vespers
- Monday** -**NO FIRST HOUR**
-**OFFICE CLOSED**
- Tuesday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.
-Catechumen/Inquirers class, 7:00 p.m., "What is an Orthodox Christian?"
- Wednesday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.
-**NO EVENING ACTIVITIES**, we will resume 5/8
- Thursday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.
-Taking down of the bier, 3:00 p.m.
-**Divine Liturgy for Life Giving Font, 6:00 p.m.**
-Pizza Party following liturgy
- Friday** -Paschal Office, 9:00 a.m.
-Paschal Office, 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -**Orthros & Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

Upcoming Memorials

May 5 – Nicholas Golovin (Anne Castrodale's uncle)

May 7 – Nancy McGee, 40 day

DIVINE LITURGY – Life Giving Font

Thursday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip

READER:

HOLY BREAD: Sarah Hodges

PIZZA PARTY CLEAN UP: Whoever can stay to help

DIVINE LITURGY – Thomas Sunday

Sunday, May 5, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip

READER: Matt Spinolo

HOLY BREAD: Lavinia Dumitrache

USHER: Matt Spinolo

ALTAR SERVERS:

COFFEE HOUR:

COMMEMORATIONS

April 28: The Nine Martyrs of Kyzikos; Venerable Memnon the wonderworker.

April 29: Apostles Jason and Sosipater of the Seventy; the martyrs of Kerkyra; John, metropolitan of Thebes; New-martyr John; Basil of Ostrog.

April 30: Apostle James, brother of John the Theologian; Donatos, bishop in Epiros; New-martyr Argyris; Bishop Ignatios Brianchaninov.

May 1: Prophet Jeremiah; Venerable-martyrs Euthymios, Ignatios and Akakios of Prodrumou skete on Athos; Venerable Nikephoros of Chios and Panaretos of Cyprus; Venerable Paphnoutios of Borovsk.

May 2: Athanasios the Great, patriarch of Alexandria; Martyrs Hesperos, Zoe and their sones Kyriakos and Theodoulos in Attalia; translation of the relics of the holy Passion-bearers Boris and Gleb.

May 3: Martyrs Timothy the Reader and his wife Maura of Egypt; Peter, archbishop of Argolis; Ekumenios, bishop of Trikala; Venerable Luke of Mt. Stirion; repose of Venerable Theodosios of the Kiev Caves, founder of Russian Monasticism.

May 4: Venerable-martyr Palagia of Tarsus; Athanasios, bishop of Corinth; Venerable Nikephoros the Solitary of Athos.

May 5: Great-martyr Irene of Thessalonika; Venerable Euthymios, bishop of Maditos in Thrace.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 14 - 21

Sunday	Acts	1:1-8	John	1:1-17
Monday	Acts	12:1-11	John	1:18-28
Tuesday	Acts	2:14-21	Luke	24:12-35
Wednesday	Acts	22:22-38	John	1:35-51
Thursday	Acts	2:38-43	John	3:1-15
Friday	Acts	3:1-8	John	2:12-22
Saturday	Acts	3:11-16	John	3:22-33
Sunday	Acts	5:12-20	John	20:19-31



Pray for our catechumen: David & Rose McGee, Jarrett & Kelly Wilson

Please remember in your prayers – Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Nicholas Hill, 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, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Catechumen/Inquirers Class –Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. We will continue discussing “What is an Orthodox Christian?” Catechumen/Inquirers class is open to anyone interested in learning more about our faith whether you are brand new, catechumen, or long-time member.

Parish Council Update – The next parish council meeting will be Tuesday evening, May 14. If you have particular items that need to be discussed, please see Fr Philip or any of our parish council members. Over the summer months, we will once again be taking nominations for the next round of council members. May God continue to give wisdom and discernment to all of our council members!

AGAPE VESPERS PICNIC

\$10/\$5 per person donation suggested to help offset the cost of food

Join us for Corky’s BBQ, an Egg Hunt, and Fellowship!

Bring: Lawnchairs, beverages of your choice for your family, dessert to share, and instruments if you play them.

EGG HUNT

Pam Bowick will lead the children in an egg hunt immediately following vespers. Each child should bring 12 filled plastic eggs to be hidden (boiled eggs will not be hidden) and their basket.

BRIGHT WEEK PIZZA PARTY

Thursday evening following Divine Liturgy

For the Life Giving Font at 6:00 p.m.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 4/28:	JonMark Hetrick Anniversary: Rick & Christi Yadron
Wednesday, 5/1:	<i>Jeremiah, the prophet: Charlie Harvey, Clark McGee</i>
Thursday, 5/2:	Caitlin Romero Anniversary: Brandon & Caitlyn Maas
Friday, 5/3:	Carla Fahhoum, Allanah & Lily Paden, Wendy Weatherall

Women of St. John Calendar

Mon., 5/6

AWSJ Book Club – 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela’s home. We will be discussing *Everyday Wonders* by Fr. Michael Oleksa. The 2019 book list can be found on the website for those interested. (Parish – AWSJ – Book Club)

Thurs, 5/9

Women’s Teaching – 10:00 a.m., at Sarah Hodges’ home. We are studying “Prayer: Encounter with the Living God” by Met. Hilarion.

Sun., 5/19

Baby Shower honoring Sarah Elliott

Sarah Finley’s home, 12:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to walk over to Sarah’s following coffee hour!

Contact Sarah Finley if you would like to contribute to the group gift or assist in any way.

Sarah is registered at Babylist.com

Sat., 6/1

Wedding Shower honoring Rachel McKelroy

June 1, 11:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home

Rachel is registered at Target and Bed, Bath, & Beyond

If you would like to assist with the shower, or contribute to the group gift,

contact Kh. Pamela

Wedding Website: www.Zola.com/wedding/blakeandrachel2019

Young Adults Calendar

(Ages 18 – 40)

Monday, May 13 – Work/Life Balance, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19 – Doctrine on Draft – “Ask Me Anything” w/ Fr. Philip

Teen Group Calendar

Bright Friday 5/3

Sophia and I will be hosting a teen group bright week party at our house at 3633 Galloway Ave. at 6:00pm! We will plan to grill burgers and dogs and have yard games and a fire pit with smores. Starting thinking about this as I'll need a head count to know how much food to prepare.

LIBRARY LINES

One of the beauties of Orthodoxy is its connectiveness. Today we celebrate Pascha. In a mystery, we in the 21st century enter into an event that occurred in 32 A.D. Even our hymns sing of Old Testament men who foretold or were types of Christ. This phenomenon is reflected on a smaller scale in our liturgical calendar. This week we commemorate a contemporary of Christ, an Old Testament prophet and a fourth century hierarch, all who touch our lives today.

St. James (4/30) was the brother of our own St. John. They were in the inner circle of Christ’s disciples, and He called them “the sons of thunder.” James preached the Gospel in Spain after Pentecost and returned to Jerusalem. The Jews sent men to discredit his message and spread lies about him. History records the names of three of them, and tradition tells us they were later converted. St. James, the first martyred of the Apostles, was beheaded in 44 A. D. Read more about him in *The Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR) and *Notes on the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - - - MAS).

It is not by chance that we honor the Prophet Jeremiah (5/1) soon after Pascha. God called him at age 15 but he refused Him because of his youth and inability to speak well. God touched his mouth and gave him words. He spent the next 23 years warning the Jews about their impending captivity because they had forsaken God and had worshipped idols. He was mocked, imprisoned and eventually killed by them.

St. Athanasius (5/2) is linked in our minds with the First Ecumenical Council. There he refuted the heresy of Arius. The Council supported his arguments but the Arians persecuted him throughout his life. At one time, his was deposed as a bishop and lived under death threats. He wrote letters in defense of Orthodoxy and commentaries on the Scriptures. St. John Library owns *Athanasius... The Life of Anthony and the Letter to Marcellinus* (HAG ANT ATH), *Christ Is Our Holiness: Be Strong in the Faith* (PAT ATH), *On the Incarnation* (PAT ATH), and *The Road to Pascha* (PAT ATH).