

From the Fathers (and others):

It often happens that Satan will insidiously commune with you in your heart and say: 'Think of the evil you have done; your soul is full of lawlessness, you are weighed down by many grievous sins.' Do not let him deceive you when he does this and do not be led to despair on the pretext that you are being humble. After gaining admission through the fall evil has the power to commune at all times with the soul, as man to man, and so to suggest sinful actions to it. You should answer it: 'I have God's written assurance, for He says: "I desire, not the sinner's death, but that he should return through repentance and live" ' (cf. Ezek. 33:11). What was the purpose of His descent to earth except to save sinners, to bring light to those in darkness and life to the dead?

St. Makarios of Egypt

After cruel tortures, the governor Fronton cried out to Menodora, who was wounded and bloody: "Offer sacrifice to the gods!" To this the holy martyr replied: "Do you not see that I am offering my entire self as a sacrifice to my God?"

Pray without ceasing, calling upon the name of the life-giving Trinity in order that your soul should not be suddenly overwhelmed by any passion, pride, or envy, or malice and hatred, or avarice, or covetousness, or gluttony, or anger and irritability, or harsh judgment, or scorn, or falsehood and calumny, or any such passion; for we walk amongst snares every hour, every minute of our life.

St. John of Kronstadt

Strive as hard as you can to love every man. If you cannot yet do this, at least do not hate anybody. But even this is beyond your power unless you scorn worldly things.

St. Maximos the Confessor

What is more necessary for man than God and His divine love? He is our refuge, He is our treasure, He is our food and drink, He is our raiment and shelter, He is our health and strength, He is our happiness and joy, He is our hope and our trust. Strive then, my son, to gain Him. If you succeed in gaining the One God, it will be sufficient for you; you will rejoice more in Him than if you had gained the entire world.

St. Theodora

We must love our neighbor still more when he sins against God, or against ourselves, because then he is sick, because then he is in spiritual misfortune, in danger; then, especially, we must have compassion upon him, pray for him, and apply to his heart a healing plaster - a word of kindness, instruction, reproof, consolation, forgiveness, love.

St. John of Kronstadt

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



*~ September 16, 2018 ~
Sunday after the Elevation
of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross*

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

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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 Elevation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Lavinia Dumitrache**.

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

Sept. 16 - 23 (Wed. & Fri. fast)

- Sunday** -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
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m., Mary in the Orthodox tradition
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
-Wednesday Teaching, 6:15 p.m., Preparing for a Bishop's visit
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
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.
-Holy Baptism of Abigail Yadron, following Vespers
Sunday -**Church School & Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

Sept 16 – Enrollment of Sharon Taylor

Sept 16 – Memorial for Kitty Gilliland and Mary Allison Calloway

Sept 22 – Baptism of Abigail Yadron

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, September 23, 10:00 a.m.

- PRIEST:** Fr. Philip
READER: David Twombly
USHER: Bill Harter
HOLY BREAD: Stephanie Harants
ALTAR SERVERS: Max, Elijah B., Brody, Paul
COFFEE HOUR: Melissa White, Claire van Drimmelen, Sandy & Mitch Childress

COMMEMORATIONS



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Sept.16: Great-martyr Euphemia the all-praised; Martin the bishop; New-martyrs Isaac and Joseph of Georgia; Martyr Ludmilla, grandmother of Wenceslaus prince of the Czechs; Venerable Prokopios of Sazava in Bohemia.

Sept.17: Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope; Hieromartyr Herakleidos of Cyprus; Martyr Agathokleia; Venerable Anastasios and Euxiphios.

Sept.18: Eumenios the wonder-worker, bishop of Gortyna; Martyr Ariadne of Phrygia.

Sept. 19: Martyrs Trophimos, Dorymedon, Savvatios and Susanna; Hieromartyr Januarios of Benevento and his companions; Theodore, prince of Smolensk, and his sons David and Constantine, wonderworkers of Yaroslav; Theodore of Tarsus, archbishop of Canterbury.

Sept.20: Great-martyr Eustathios and his family; Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Venerable John of Crete; Martyrs Michael, prince of Chernigov, and his councilor Theodore.

Sept.21: Apostle Quadratos of the Seventy; Prophet Jonah; uncovering of the relics of Demetrios, bishop of Rostov.

Sept.22: Hieromartyr Phocas of Sinope the wonder-worker; New-martyrs Isaac and Martin; Twenty-six Venerable-martyrs of Zographou monastery on Athos; Venerable Cosmas the Bulgarian of Zographou monastery on Athos.

Sept. 23: The Conception of the Forerunner; Martyr Raidos; New-martyrs Nicholas and John; Venerable Xanthippa and Polyxena of Spain.

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| DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS | | September 16 - 23 | |
| Sunday | Galatians | 2:16-20 | Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 |
| Monday | Ephesians | 1:22-23; 2:1-3 | Luke 3:19-22 |
| Tuesday | Ephesians | 2:19-22; 3:1-7 | Luke 3:23-38, 4:1 |
| Wednesday | Ephesians | 3:8-21 | Luke 4:1-15 |
| Thursday | Ephesians | 6:10-17 | Luke 21:12-19 |
| Friday | Ephesians | 4:17-25 | Luke 4:22-30 |
| Saturday | 1 Corinthians | 14:20-25 | Luke 4:31-36 |
| Sunday | Galatians | 4:22-27 | Luke 5:1-11 |
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Please remember in your prayers - Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Nicholas Hill, Janna Knight (pregnant), Katherine Verbist (pregnant), Lavinia Dumitrache (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), Dot Lawson (Pam Bowick’s mother & Lawson’s grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha’s daughter), Matthew (Joyce Grossman’s grandson), Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Catechumen/Inquirers Class will meet on Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing Mary in Orthodox tradition.

Bishop NICHOLAS – His Grace +NICHOLAS will be visiting St. John Sept. 25 – Oct. 1. See the bulletin and website for a schedule of opportunities to pray with and visit with him.

Sons of Thunder Men’s Book Club - The Sons of Thunder men's book club will meet at 6 pm on Sunday, October 7 at Jack Turner's home. They will be discussing *Love in the Ruins* by Walker Percy. All men are welcome.

Lost and Found

The parish lost and found is now located in the downstairs hallway where the Coke machine used to be. Are you missing an umbrella, sunglasses, clothing, charcoal grill? It might be there! Please take a look! Anything not claimed by Sept. 21 will be donated.

Parish Council Update

The parish council had their first meeting of the new year on Tuesday. The new council was updated on the ongoing business of the Church including PLC 2020, the Bishop’s Visit and the Women’s Retreat. In addition, they discussed new items including replacing the front door of the Church, looking into different options to improve lighting and sound in the nave and the pros and cons of both. No definitive decisions were made, and more research will be conducted on all of the above. May God bless their work!

Survey Responses - Thank you for your comments on the exterior landscaping of the Church property. Thank God, the sacristan garden continues to improve and we have added a few planters in the courtyard that will continue to beautify our new space. In addition, there are two lovely shrines on the property. One, beyond St. Raphael Hall is a shrine dedicated to those children lost in pregnancy. Memory eternal! Second, there is a new shrine being set up in the sacristan garden that will bring a special sacred space to the neighborhood. More improvements will continue to be made!

Parents Corner: In the past, it was the custom for visitors and those celebrating a particular event (birthday, anniversary, nameday, etc) to go first in the food line during coffee hour. We are going to attempt to go back to this practice. Parents, please have your children stand back from the food tables so that our guests and those mentioned may have the honor of going first. This is a great opportunity to remind our children of the importance of patience as well as respect and honor for others. Thank you for your help!!

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

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| Sunday, 9/16: | Alex New |
| Monday, 9/17: | Deon Crum, Eliza Elliott <i>St. Sophia: Sophia Mansour, Sophia Yarbro</i> |
| Tuesday, 9/18: | Max Mendenhall |
| Thursday, 9/20: | Julie Sanderlin |
| Saturday, 9/22: | Thomas Cameron |

Women of St. John Calendar

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| Monday, 10/1 | AWSJ Book Club – 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela’s home. We will be discussing <i>Cherry Bomb</i> by our very own Kh. Susan Cushman! You can find copies at Burke’s Books, Novel, Amazon, or from Kh. Susan. Kh. Susan will be joining us to lead our discussion. |
| Thursday, 10/11 | Women’s Teaching - 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home We are reading “Prayer: Encounter with the Living God” by Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev |

Hierarchical Visit Schedule - September 25 –30

Tuesday, September 25

- 4:30 p.m. Great Vespers for the Repose of St. John

Wednesday, September 26 – Patronal Feast Day

- 5:00 p.m. Orthros
- 6:00 p.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- Patronal Potluck following liturgy - FWO

Thursday, September 27

- AWSJ gathering with +NICHOLAS at Sarah Elliott’s home, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Friday, September 28

- Bishop visit to St. Paul in Tupelo

Saturday, September 29

- 9:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast with +NICHOLAS at the church
- Bishop visit to St. Nicholas in Jackson

Sunday, September 30

- Teen event with +NICHOLAS

Library Lines

St. Ludmilla (9/16) is better known by most of the world for her grandson, King Wenceslaus. She and her husband, the Prince and Princess of the Czechs were converted and baptized by St. Methodius (5/11), Enlightener of the Slavs. She was widowed at an early age, but continued to be faithful and supportive of the Church. Her daughter-in-law, mother of young Wenceslaus, began to encourage pagan ways to the people. She hated St. Ludmilla and had her murdered. King Wenceslaus transferred her relics to Prague where many healings occurred at her tomb. His feast day is later in September.

St. Euphemia the All-praised (9/16) is best known for a miracle occurring after her death. The Fourth Ecumenical Council, convened to establish the nature of Christ, was held in a church which housed her relics. The Monophysites opposed the doctrine of His two natures, divine and human, asserting Jesus was divine and not human. The Patriarch proposed that the two views be written down, St. Euphemia’s tomb was opened and the scrolls placed on her bosom. This was done, and the tomb was then sealed and guarded by the emperor’s soldiers. After three days of prayer and fasting, the tomb was opened. The scroll of the Orthodox confession was in her right hand and that of the heretics was at her feet. Read more about her in *The Encyclopedia of Major Saints and Fathers*, (HAG - - - ELE), p. 34 and in *Orthodox Saints* (HAG - - - POU), on p. 135 in the blue book and on pp. 25 and 199 in the yellow book. She is also commemorated July 11.

Monday, we honor St. Sophia (9/17). She endured the greatest pain a mother can endure. Her three daughters, Faith, Hope and Love were tortured and beheaded in her sight. She buried them and stayed by their graves for three days and then gave her soul to God. Believers buried her beside her children. Their icon is on the center of the balcony wall. After you venerate them, take your children to the library so they can read her story in *Christina’s Favorite Saints* (KID STS KHO), p. 22 and in *Let the Little Children Come to Me* (HAG/ - - - SAI), p. 27.

Occasionally a story from the lives of the saints makes its way into our everyday vocabulary. This week’s *whale of a tale* has tremendous theological significance for us all, and it appeals especially to children, sailors, gardeners, and zoologists! Saturday, we commemorate the Holy prophet Jonah (9/22). God called him to bring His message to the wicked city of Nineveh. He fled God’s presence on a storm-tossed ship, and the sailors threw him overboard. (Hence another oft-heard term, a *Jonah*, meaning a person believed to bring bad luck to those around him.) He was swallowed by a great fish and remained in his belly for three days. God heard his cries and caused the whale to vomit him up on land. Jonah traveled on to Nineveh and prophesied destruction of the city because of the people’s wickedness. Unexpectedly to Jonah, they repented. He had looked forward to their punishment and when it didn’t happen, he sulked in the desert under a vine of gourds which God created solely for his shelter. God then created a worm to eat the plant. Jonah grieved for the vine, and God chided Jonah for his folly in grieving for a plant and in wishing for punishment of “human beings, who do not know their right hand or their left hand-and also much cattle...” Read about Jonah and how this event is a picture of Pascha in *The Book of Jonah* (KID STS CHO) and *Jonah’s Journey to the Deep* (KID STS JON).

How appropriate it is that we honor men who humbly work the earth to bring forth food, herbs and flowers for sustenance for our bodies and beauty for our souls. Saturday we, especially the plant-lovers among us, remember St. Phocas the Gardener of Sinope (9/22). He aided the poor with his produce. When he accidentally happened upon men sent to arrest him for being a Christian, he gave them hospitality, made arrangements for his possessions to be given to the needy, and dug his own grave. When his captors saw this, they tried to spare him, but he refused and was beheaded.