

From the Fathers (and others):

Many of us are talkers, few are doers. But no one should distort the word of God through his own negligence. He must confess his weakness and not hide God's truth. Otherwise he will be guilty not only of breaking the commandments but also of falsifying the word of God.

St. Maximos the Confessor

It is better to be a simpleton and approach God with love than to be a learned man and at the same time an enemy of God.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

The prudent farmer first clears his land of brambles before sowing it with seed. Similarly, the man who aspires to receive from God the seed of grace must first clear the earth of his heart, so that when the seed of the Spirit falls it may yield a good and abundant harvest.

St. Makarios of Egypt

Do not say: "I have been dishonest, an adulterer, I have committed grave offences innumerable times. Will he forgive them? Will he deign to forget them?" Listen rather to the Psalmist: "How great is your love, O Lord." (Ps. 31:19). Your sins piled one above the other do not overtop the greatness of God's love. Your wounds are not too great for the skill of the Doctor.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

We ate that which was given to us. No one ever said, 'give me something else,' or 'I do not want that.' In this way, we spent our entire life in silence and peace.

Abba Poemen

A different pattern of behavior is exhibited by a small number of people who are pleasing to God. They have become the masters of their own wealth. And they have used it, as if it were their faithful slave, to feed the hungry, the clothe the naked, to free the debtors who are insolvent and in prison. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, Joseph, David acted like this. Money was not the master of these people; they were the masters of their money.

St. Philoxenus of Mabbug

The divine reading of the sacred Books reveals the counsels of the most Holy God. Thanks to reading them each of us knows what he ought to do, and learns the laws of the struggle which he has taken on in order to deserve the kingdom of Christ.

St. Maximos the Confessor

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



*~ September 2, 2018 ~
14th Sunday after Pentecost*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 2:21-24

Gospel: Matthew 22:2-14

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Anne Castrodale**.

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. 2 – 9 (Wed. & Fri. fast)

Sunday -
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., 10 Commandments, Pt. 3
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
-Wednesday Teaching, Drew & Sophia Garrison
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m.
Friday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
-Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday -Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos, 9:00 a.m.
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -**Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
-Job Fair during Coffee Hour

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

Sept 7 – Great Vespers for Nativity of Theotokos, 6:00 p.m.
Sept 8 – Divine Liturgy for Nativity of Theotokos, 9:00 a.m.
Sept 13 – Great Vespers for the Elevation, 6:00 p.m.
Sept 14 – Divine Liturgy for the Elevation, 9:00 a.m.
Sept 15 – Baptism of Abigail Yadron

DIVINE LITURGY

Saturday, September 8, 9:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip
HOLY BREAD: Ben Arthur
COFFEE HOUR: **HELP NEEDED**

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, September 9, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip
READER: Jack Turner
USHER: Jack Turner
HOLY BREAD: Anne Dugan
ALTAR SERVERS: Zach, Nicholas, Eli, Gabe
COFFEE HOUR: Young Adults

COMMEMORATIONS

Sept. 2: Martyr Mamas and his parents, Martyrs Theodotos and Rufina; John the Faster, patriarch of Constantinople.

Sept. 3: Hieromartyr Anthimos of Nicomedia; Martyr Chariton; New-martyr Polydoros of Cyprus; Venerable Theoktistos, fellow-faster with Euthymios the Great; Phoebe the deaconess; uncovering of the relics of Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-worker; Ionikios I, patriarch of Serbia.

Sept. 4: Hieromartyr Babylas of Antioch; Prophet Moses the God-seer; Martyrs Jerusalem, Sekendos, Sekendios and Kegouros in Sleppo; Martyr Hermione, daughter of the Apostle Philip the deacon; uncovering of the relics of Joasaph, bishop of Belgorod; Venerable Anthimos the New; New-hieromartyr Gorazd, bishop of Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia.

Sept. 5: Prophet Zachariah and Elizabeth, parents of the Forerunner; Obadiah, bishop of Persia; martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb.

Sept. 6: The commemoration of the miracle of the Archangel Michael in Colossae; Martyrs Eudoxios, Andronikos and Kalodote.

Sept. 7: Martyr Sozon of Cilicia; Apostles Euodos and Onesiphoros of the Seventy; New-martyr Athanasios; John, archbishop of Novgorod; Venerable Kassiane; Venerable Cloud of Nogent-sur-Seine.

Sept. 8: The Nativity of the Theotokos.

Sept. 9: The holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; Great-martyr Severian of Sebaste; the fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council; Venerable Joseph of Volotsk; uncovering of the relics of Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Catechumen/Inquirers Class will meet on Tuesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. We will be continuing our discussion with Part 3 of the Ten Commandments.

St. John Job Fair – On Sunday, September 9, St. John will again host a “Job Fair” to assist parishioners in knowing where they can get involved as well as the opportunity to sign up. Representatives will be on hand to explain responsibilities or activities.

Dinner Clubs - For several years, many people have been participating in our dinner clubs. Dinner clubs are groups of 6-8 St. John people who meet together for a meal once every 2-3 months for a year. **The focus is on fellowship, not food.** This is another great way to meet and get to know more people and develop a sense of community. Please sign up in the parish hall by September 9; additionally, the sign up will be available at the job fair. You may contact Margaret McKelroy with any questions.

Church School and Fall Schedule – Church school and our normal Wednesday schedule (5:30 dinner, 6:15 teaching/atrium, 7:00 Small Compline) will resume the week of September 9. Parents, a roster for the coming year of church school is included in this week’s inserts.

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

Ministry Champions Needed! There were a number of suggestions about how to do different ministries more efficiently. Each ministry needs a champion. If you would like to champion one of our parish ministries, for instance: greeters, bookstore, outreach, etc., please see Fr. Philip!

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.

Parish Council Update

Traditionally, August has been a month without a parish council meeting. The next parish council meeting will be Tuesday, September 11. This will be the first meeting with our new parish council members: Pauline Koplín, Ben Shull, and Anna Pashchinskaya! They will be introduced and blessed this morning!

Survey Responses

Thank you for all of the helpful responses to the survey! Action has already been taken on some of the suggestions! Each week, a different category of the survey will be addressed in the weekly email. This will allow for some of the easy answers to be given and for everyone to know about actions being taken on the suggestions.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 2 - 9

Sunday	2 Cor	2:21-24	Matt	22:2-14
Monday	Galatians	2:11-16	Mark	5:24-34
Tuesday	Galatians	2:21, 3:1-7	Mark	6:1-7
Wednesday	Galatians	3:15-22	Matt	24:13-28
Thursday	Hebrews	2:2-10	Luke	10:16-21
Friday	Galatians	4:8-21	Mark	6:45-53
Saturday	Philippians	2:5-11	Luke	2:5-11
Sunday	Galatians	6:11-18	John	3:13-17



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.

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

Monday, 9/3:	John McGee, Violet Hight
Tuesday, 9/4:	<i>Righteous Aaron: Aaron White</i>
Wednesday, 9/5:	George Maas, Lillian George <i>St. Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner: Ella White, Miriam Knight, Lily Paden, Elizabeth Cameron, Rachel McKelroy</i>
Thursday, 9/6:	Megan Salloum <i>Archangel Michael: Michael Williams, Michael Hill, Michael Cameron, Michael Elliott</i>
Friday, 9/7:	Melissa White

Women of St. John Calendar

Sunday, 9/2	AWSJ Business Meeting following liturgy
Thursday, 9/6	Women's Teaching - 10:00 a.m., Sarah Hodges home We are reading "Prayer: Encounter with the Living God" by Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev
Monday, 9/10	AWSJ Book Club – 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home. We will be discussing <i>Towers in the Mist</i> by Elizabeth Goudge

Library Lines

Very different circumstances surround our feast days this month! We see Church hierarchs staunchly defending our Faith, two holy couples who raised the Theotokos and the Forerunner, and a boy who showed his devotion to God in a life of meekness. See their stories and icons in St. John Library.

Hardly a week goes by that we don't commemorate the uncovering or translation of a saint's relics. This week we remember it today for St. Nektarios (9/3) and Monday for St. Joasaph

(9/4). 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." Read *The Pearl* (CAT GEN WHE), beginning on p. 139, to find out more about venerating relics. Bishop Kallistos Ware relates this to the Orthodox theology of the body. See chapter 11 of *The Orthodox Church* and *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. Bishop Kallistos Ware connects this practice with the theology of the body in *The Orthodox Church* (CAT GEN WAR). See chapter 11.

September is very rich in commemorations of saints who are special to our parish. This week and next, we honor two sets of righteous parents, Sts. Zachariah and Elizabeth (9/5) and Sts. Joachim and Anna (9/9). Both of their stories are told in *The Life of the Virgin Mary, The Theotokos* (REF/ HAG/- -/HOL). It is an excellent addition for home libraries since it is a comprehensive source of Tradition, iconography and hymnography on everyone who touched the life of the Theotokos.

The Prophet Moses (9/4) is one of the most familiar persons in the Old Testament. His mother and sister hid him in a basket in the Nile to protect him from Pharaoh's soldiers. By God's grace he was raised as an Egyptian in the court of Pharaoh himself. He killed one of his soldiers and fled into the desert. There God called to him from a burning bush, a type of the Ever-virgin Theotokos, to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He performed many miracles during his life and appeared with the prophet Elias in the Transfiguration. Read about him in *Baby Moses* (KID STS MOS), *Moses' Flight from Egypt* (KID STS MOS), and *The Life of Moses* (PAT GRE) by St. Gregory of Nyssa.

Friday, we commemorate St. Macarius of Optina. Optina Monastery, south of Moscow, renewed the hesychastic tradition in 18th century Russia. Enrich your life by uncovering the lives and wisdom of these men in:

- The Orthodox Word # 117 Jul-Aug 1984 pp. 148 & 156
- # 122 May-Jun 1985 pp. 125 & 129
- # 267 Jul-Aug 2009 pp. 157 & 199
- # 290 May-Jun 2013 pp. 105
- Road to Emmaus # 44 winter 2011 p. 3.

St. John Library also offers books about and by Elders Anatoly (1/25), Nektary (4/29), Anthony (8/7), Barsanuphius (4/1), Joseph (5/9), Leonid (10/11), Macarius (9/7), and Moses (6/16). Check out *Living Without Hypocrisy* (PAT - - - OPT) where you will find their spiritual counsels arranged by subject. Look up their names in the library's subject catalog to find books about each of them.