

From the Fathers (and others):

Set your mind on following the path of St.s. Prefer a simple style of life. Wear unremarkable clothes. Eat simple food. Behave in an unaffected manner. Don't strut around as if you were important. Speak from your heart.

Abba Philemon

Before their suffering, St. Sophia encouraged her daughters, Faith, Hope, and Love, to endure to the end: "Your heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is eternal health, inexpressible beauty and eternal life. When your bodies are slain by torture, He will clothe you in incorruption and the wounds on your bodies will shine in the heavens as stars."

If you want to be spiritually tranquil, never part from someone while feeling agitated, but try in every way to forgive everyone in your soul and to make peace as much as possible. In so doing, you will part from others with a calm spirit, and you will enjoy serenity of the soul.

St. Moses

The measure of perfection of your love for God is reflected in the excellence of your love for your enemy or whomever you consider the lowest in rank among your acquaintances. This is based upon God's love for us (Jn. 3.16); Jesus' intercession for his murderers spoken from the cross; the intercessory prayer of the first martyr, St. Stephen, for his own murderers; and the Lord's teaching on the last judgment, when He identifies Himself with each of the persons we meet daily (Mt. 25.31-46).

Fr. Thomas Hopko

Some temptations bring men pleasure, some grief, some bodily pain. The Physician of souls by means of His judgments applies the remedy to each soul according to the cause of its passions.

St. Maximos the Confessor

When the torturer asked the Holy Martyr Sabbatius who he was and what his rank was, he replied: "My rank and dignity and homeland and glory and wealth is Christ, the Son of God, Who lives forever, and by Whose providence the universe exists and is governed."

Nothing so weak as a large group of unrighteous men. Nothing so strong as one man who keeps the commandments of God.

St John Chrysostom

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



*~ September 23, 2018 ~
17th Sunday after Pentecost*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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www.orthodoxtupelo.com

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

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 4:22-27

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Stephanie Harants**.

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. 23-30 (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
-Great Vespers, 4:30 p.m.
-Clergy & Parish Council dinner with +NICHOLAS
Wednesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Orthros, 5:00 p.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 6:00 p.m.
-Patronal Potluck following liturgy
Thursday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Evening with the Bishop, 6:00 p.m.
Friday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
Saturday -Men's Breakfast with the Bishop, 9:30 a.m.
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
Sunday -**Church School & Orthros, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
-Coffee Hour appetizer/dessert pot luck

Memorial Today

Martin Elmo Thompson, 7 years
John Savka (Joyce Grossman's father), 47 years

Upcoming Memorial

Bishop ANTOUN – 1 year

HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, September 30, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: All
READER: Jack Turner
USHER: Ervin Romero
HOLY BREAD: Reem Mansour
ALTAR SERVERS: Max, Elijah B., Brody, Paul
COFFEE HOUR: Zach, Nicholas, Eli, Gabe

COMMEMORATIONS



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

Sept.24: Proto-martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles; the commemoration of the wonder-working icon of the Theotokos of the Myrtle Tree; New-martyr Ahmed; Venerable Nicander of Pskov; Venerable Silouan of Athos; the synaxis of all saints of Alaska.

Sept.25: Venerable Euphrosyne of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Paphnoutios and those with him; repose of Venerable Sergios of Radonezh; translation of the relics of Herman, archbishop of Kazan.

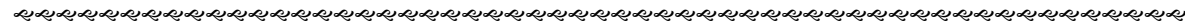
Sept.26: The repose of the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.

Sept. 27: Martyr Kallistratos; the Apostles Aristarchos, Zenon and Mark of the Seventy; New-martyr Aquilina; Venerable Ignatios, abbot in Asia Minor; Venerable Savvatos of Solovskiy.

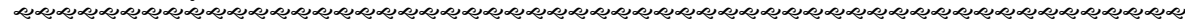
Sept.28: Venerable Chariton the Confessor, abbot of Palestine; Venerable Neophytos and Auxentios; Martyr Heliodoros; Prophet Baruch; Martyr Wenceslaus, prince of the Czechs.

Sept.29: Venerable Kyriakos the hermit of Palestine; Martyr Petronia; Venerable-martyrs Malachi and those with him.

Sept.30: Hieromartyr Gregory, bishop and enlightener of Greater Armenia; Martyrs Rhipsime and Gaiana and companions of Armenia; Michael, first metropolitan of Kiev; Venerable Gregory of Pelshma River.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS			September 23-30	
Sunday	Galatians	4:22-27	Luke	5:1-11
Monday	2 Timothy	3:10-15	Luke	5:12-16
Tuesday	Ephesians	5:20-25	Luke	5:12-16
Wednesday	1 John	4:12-19	John	19:25-27; 21:24-25
Thursday	Ephesians	5:33; 6:1-9	Luke	6:12-19
Friday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Luke	6:17-23
Saturday	2 Corinthians	9:6-11	Luke	6:31-36
Sunday	1 Corinthians	15:39-45	Luke	5:17-26



Please remember in your prayers - Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Nicholas Hill, Janna Knight (pregnant), Katherine Verbist (pregnant), Lavinia Dumitrache (pregnant), Leah Shull (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.

Doctrine on Draft – The Young Adults are sponsoring a special event at Crosstown Brewing on Sunday, September 30 from 6-8. The discussion will be on the importance of community!

Hurricane Relief – Today we will be collecting a special offering to aid in the relief effort benefitting those who have been affected by Hurricane Florence in the Carolina’s. If you would like to participate, you make checks payable to St. John Orthodox Church, write hurricane relief in the memo, and place them in the offering tray or leave them in the black box office.

Catechumen/Inquirers Class will meet on Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing the saints.

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

What is the Telos Project? You might have heard people talk about the Telos Project. Our parish is one of 14 Orthodox parishes around the country participating in a grant administered by Hellenic College/Holy Cross in Massachusetts. The aim is to learn how to minister to young adults. Our Church has received a \$10,000 grant to run different programs for young adults throughout the next 12 months. These events will be announced as they are happening. What a blessing for our community to be chosen for this program.

Survey Responses

Thank you for your input! An effort is being made to revamp our bookstore area. Be on the lookout for updates to the space and new items for sale.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 9/23:** Rod Ratliff
Anniversary: Don & Julie Sanderlin
- Monday, 9/24:** St. Silouan: Ben Shull, Tyson Smith
- Wednesday, 9/26:** Anniversary: Michael & Mindy Williams
St. John: Fr. John, Corey van Huystee
- Thursday, 9/27:** Reem Mansour
Anniversary: Philip & Mawusi McKelroy
St. Aquilina: Chelsea Yadron
- Saturday, 9/29:** Jay Knight, Kate Kumar

Women of St. John Calendar

- Thursday, 9/27** **Evening with Bishop NICHOLAS**, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Monday, 10/1 **AWSJ Book Club** – 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela’s home. We will be discussing *Cherry Bomb* 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. *Divine Liturgy*
- *Patronal Potluck following liturgy - FWO*

Thursday, September 27

- *AWSJ dinner 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

- *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.*
- *Coffee Hour – appetizer/dessert potluck following liturgy*
- *Teen event with +NICHOLAS*

Library Lines

Monday, we commemorate the Saints of Alaska (9/24). A very readable account of the history of Orthodoxy in our northern most state can be found Michael Oleksa’s *Orthodox Alaska*. He begins showing us the model for missions with the story of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and their conviction that its goal has to be the “incarnation of the Logos of God into the language and customs of a country,” and the “growth of an indigenous Church which will sanctify and endorse the people’s personality.” Fr. Michael relates the Alaskan culture and Russian Orthodoxy and goes on to tell the story of some of the saints we honor today. Read more in *Blessed John the Wonderworker* (HAG JOH ROS), *From Earth to Heaven: the Apostolic Adventures of St. Innocent of Alaska* (HAG INN WER), *Man of God: St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco* (HAG JOH PER), and *Our Father Among the Saints, Raphael of Brooklyn* (HAG RAP AOC). Children will enjoy *North Star: St. Herman of Alaska* (KID STS HER), *Saint Herman of Alaska* (KID STS HER), *Saint Innocent of Alaska* (KID STS INN), *Journey Across North America* (KID STS GID), *St. John and Goolya* (KID STS JOH), *Story of Holy Hierarch John Maximovitch, the Wonderworker* (KID STS JOH), and *Journey Across North America* (KID STS GID).

Secular literature tells many tales of women who disguised themselves as men to accomplish some purpose that would be otherwise denied them. Even Christians have done so. St. Euphrosyne (9/25) was born into a pious family in Alexandria in the fifth century. After her father arranged a marriage for her, she donned men’s clothing and ran away from home to pursue her desire for monasticism. She told the monks she was a eunuch named Smaragdos. After living there thirty-eight years, she revealed her identity to her grieving father who was still searching for her.

Tuesday, we commemorate a saint whose story appeals to children and adults. St. Sergius of Radonezh (9/25) was given the name Bartholomew at his birth in 14th century Russia. He loved the Church and the beauty of God’s world; however, he hated school because he could not learn to read. In answer to his prayers, God sent an angel to him in the form of an old monk. He gave a piece of prosfora to the boy to eat as a sign of God’s gift of knowledge and understanding. Immediately he could read with ease and comprehension. When he became a man, he was tonsured as a monk. He went on to establish over 40 monasteries and, along with St. Seraphim of Sarov, he is one of Russia’s most beloved saints. *The Wonderful Life of Russia’s Saint Sergius of Radonezh* (KID/STS/RAD) relates his story in poetic form along with bright colorful icon style illustration.

Do you and your children enjoy singing, *Good King Wencelaus* at Christmastime? The ruler in this well-loved, 19th century Christmas carol was embroiled in Czech political intrigue since from birth in 907. Read about his life in *Good King Wenceslaus* (KID STS WEN). His feast day is September 28.