

From the Fathers (and others)....

“The fire that is hidden and as it were smothered under the ashes of this world . . . will blaze out and with its divinity burn up the husk of death.”

St. Gregory of Nyssa

“The disciple of a correct spiritual school never sets contemplation as an object, but rather strives toward purification from passions.”

I.M. Kontzevitch

“What is it then to be a fool for Christ? It is to control one's thoughts when they stray out of line. It is to make the mind empty and free so as to be able to offer it in a state of readiness when Christ's teachings are to be assimilated, swept clean for the words of God that it needs to welcome.”

St. John Chrysostom

God has given to the earth the breath which feeds it. It is his breath that gives life to all things. And if He were to hold His breath, everything would be annihilated. His breath vibrates in yours, in your voice. It is the breath of God that you breathe -- and you are unaware of it.”

Theophilus of Antioch

“I do not pray any longer not to sin, but for thirty years I have been repeating, ‘Lord Jesus, shield me from my tongue.’ Yet despite this, my tongue trips me up every day, and I commit sin because of it.”

from The Sayings of the Desert Fathers

St. John Orthodox Church



~ February 5, 2012 ~
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
(901) 274-4119
www.stjohnmemphis.org**

**V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.
Pastor**

**Rev. Fr. Nikolai Meyers
Assistant Pastor**

**V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman
Associate Pastor**

**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**

February 5, 2012

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Epistle: II Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **the McKelroy family**.

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 5 – 12 (NO Fasting)

- Sunday** -AWSJ Business Meeting, coffee hour
-Teen Officer meeting, coffee hour
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela’s home
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m.
-Choir, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
-Wednesday meal following Vespers
-Wednesday teaching, 7:00 p.m. – Margaret Elliott on Orthodox Music
- Thursday** - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Women’s Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Anne Dugan’s home
-Women’s Evening teaching, 7:00 p.m. Kh. Pamela’s home
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Stay & Play will meet following Third Hour
-Paraklesis, 12:00 p.m.
-Teen Deanery Retreat – meet at church **2:30 p.m.**
-Dinner & a Show, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
-Baptism of Katherine Yadron following Vespers
- Sunday** -Orthros & Church School, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.

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|-----------------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| PRIEST: | Fr. John | HOMILY: | Fr. John |
| DEACONS: | Dns. James & Charles | READER: | John McGee |
| HOLY BREAD: | Kerry Sneed | USHER: | David Corbett |
| ALTAR SERVERS: | Ethan, Michael, Deon, Gregory | | |
| COFFEE HOUR: | Dan & Lori O’Brien, Nawar & Reem Mansour, Lavinia Dumitrache | | |
| WELCOME TEAM: | Brandon Maas & Gary Karnaghon | | |

Out of Town: Clergy Retreat

February 14 – 17: Fr. John, Fr. Nikolai, Fr. Don, Dn. James will be attending

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

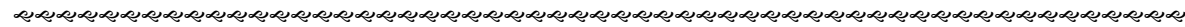
February 8: Great-martyr Theodore the General (“Stratelates”); Prophet Zachariah; Sabbas II, archbishop of Serbia.

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.

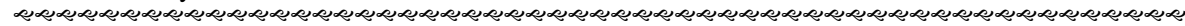
February 11: Hieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebaste; Theodora the empress; New-martyr George of Serbia; Vsevolod, prince and wonder-worker of Pskov; Venerable Demetrius of Prilutsk.

February 12: Meletios, archbishop of Antioch; New-martyr Christos of Constantinople; Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

			February 5 - 12
Sunday	2 Timothy	3:10-15	Luke 18:10-14
Monday	2 Peter	1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13
Tuesday	2 Peter	2:9-22	Mark 13:14-23
Wednesday	2 Peter	3:1-18	Mark 13:24-31
Thursday	I John	1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2
Friday	I John	2:7-17	Mark 14:3-9
Saturday	2 Timothy	3:1-9	Luke 20:46-21:4
Sunday	I Corinthians	6:12-20	Luke 15:1-32



Pray for our catechumens: **Memphis** - Ben Arthur, Laura Wiczorek, Martin Guise, Natalie DeLoach, Maria Brackey, Lisa Martin, Michael Hill. **Tupelo** - Shane Davis, Leah Hardy, Kacy Clay, Janet Berry. **Henning** –John Kearney, Richard McKeal & Alton Hanks.

Please remember in your prayers: His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP, His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN, Fr. Leo Schelver, Dn. Sidney & Sh. Mary Elliott & family, Buddy Taylor, Margaret Layman, Judy Smith (Julie Sanderlin’s mother), Shirley Gore (Judy Terry’s mother), Effie Johnson (Kh. Susan’s mother), Mary Clark, Deena Hreish (pregnant), Christina McGee (pregnant), Marjo Labonte (pregnant), Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Sue Ingram, Charles Ingram, Ted & Patty Greathouse (Shelley Snowden’s parents), June Peebles (Sarah Hodges’ mother), Allen Sudduth (Paul’s father), David & Erin Williams (Jill Healy’s children), Janet Berry, Lydia Banicescu (Tupelo), Betty Wells (Karen Wells’ mother), Bryson Pitts (Dianna Hildebrand’s grandson), Paul Parham, Jill Healy, Nicholas Hill, Debbie Maas (Brandon Maas’ mother).



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Catechumen/Inquirers Class will meet Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN BULLETIN BOARD – Remember to check the bulletin board downstairs for information on various community and other events.

AWSJ Business Meeting - AWSJ will have our quarterly business meeting (*brief!*) **today** during Coffee Hour in the room beside the kitchen. We will discuss upcoming service opportunities, social events, and our fundraiser: Dinner and A Show. Join your St. John sisters as we plan our Spring 2012 quarter!

Record of Protest Against the Infringement of Religious Liberty by the Department of Health and Human Services – See the attached official statement released (on Feb. 2) by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.

Great Lent is near – As we remember the Publican and the Pharisee today and enter into the non-fasting week that follows, we are reminded that the Great Fast is soon to follow. Lent begins on February 27. We will shortly place more material in the parish hall for your use regarding services and other information. As a reminder, remember the *traditional fasting discipline* is observed during the Great Fast which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday (with *katalysis* for wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays [except on Great and Holy Saturday when oil is not permitted], and for fish, wine and oil on the Annunciation [March 25th] and Palm Sunday).

May we all prepare even now to use the season to draw closer to our God through our voluntary ascetical work of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving!

Exchange student opportunity! - iraqistudentproject.org has contacted our community inquiring if one of our members would be willing to host an Iraqi college student who has been granted a full scholarship at Christian Brothers University. The Student is an 18 year old female, Chaldean Christian, and who currently is a refugee living in Syria. There is some financial commitment since the host would be providing not just space, but meals and transportation at times for the student. This commitment could possibly last for the length of an undergraduate degree, around four years. It would also be a great way to give alms and shelter the storm-tossed and afflicted. If you would like further details please see Fr. John or Fr. Nikolai.

Summer Camping:

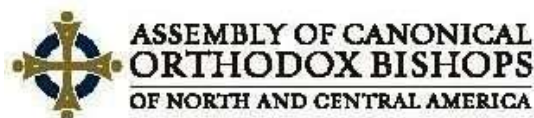
Camp St. Thekla – Registration forms may be found downstairs in the parish hall. Camp St. Thekla is open to campers age 9-18 (entering 4th – entering 12th). The cost is \$400, but please see Fr. John if cost is an issue. **Session I:** June 24-30 **Session II:** July 1-7

Please let Trish know if your child is going to Session I and you are interested in the possibility group transportation. We need to get a headcount of those interested in order to see whether this is a feasible option. Let her know, as well, if you would be interested in being a driver.



For almost 15 years, **Paul Parham** has faithfully served as our parish's business manager. He has come into the office almost every Tuesday morning for that period and handled all the financial issues for the week. Beyond that, he has done all the extra financial work – budget, tax reporting, etc. – not to mention serving on the parish council faithfully for the entire time. Due to his recent surgery and continuing medical issues, he has come to the conclusion that he can no longer do the job for the church. This was very difficult for him on several levels. He loves being busy, helping people, doing positive things, and doing them without fanfare. There is no way we can thank Paul enough for all that he has done for us – other than to regularly offer our prayers for him – in thanksgiving and for his improved health. **God bless you and grant you many more years, Paul!**

However, we are very blessed with wonderful parishioners whose talents are immense. I am happy to announce that **Lynda Spinolo** has agreed to take over the role as business manager (somewhat modified from Paul's tenure). She has been doing the work for a month now and is doing a great job. Please keep her and all our staff members in your prayers. **Thanks, Lynda!!**



CHECK OUT all the new postings on the web site of the **ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS** of North and Central America (www.assemblyofbishops.org/) !!

– 25th Anniversary for St. Peter Orthodox Church in Jackson, MS –

St. Peter Church will celebrate their 25th anniversary as a canonical Orthodox church this year (as do we here at St. John!). The anniversary festivities will take place on the weekend of May 4-6, 2012. His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN will preside over the weekend. There is a full weekend of activities scheduled with Fr. Jon Braun and Fr. Peter Gillquist as guest speakers. A more finalized schedule will be sent out later.

On Saturday night, May 5, there will be a banquet at the Mississippi Museum of Art. **If you think you would like to attend**, you will need to be included on the invitation list. Fr. John Henderson has asked us to provide a firm list of people and addresses from our parish that want to come to the banquet as soon as possible. **Even if you are unsure whether you can attend, give you name to the office so that you can be included on the invitation list. There is no commitment on your part at this time.** There will be NO on-site registration. The cost for the Banquet will be \$50 per person. All of the information for the weekend will be included with the invitation which will be mailed to those whose names we forward to St. Peter Church.

So . . . **if you would like to go, please let our office know ASAP so that we can forward your name to St. Peter.**

Upcoming Special Services

Upcoming Baptism - Saturday, February 11th following Vespers

Katherine Yadron, daughter of Thomas Yadron

Please keep Katherine and her godparents, **Dan & Lori O'Brien** in your prayers.

Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Souls

Saturday, February 18th, 9:00 a.m.

Meatfare Sunday Potluck, February 19th following Liturgy

Great Lent is approaching! Bring your favorite non-fasting dish and enjoy the fellowship of your St. John family.

Summer Weddings

May 27 – **Nathan Powell and Ashley Rieves** (Fr. Basil will officiate)

July 1 – **Tyson Smith and Janine Criswell**

August 18 – **Myron Klimkowski and Hillary Dodd**

Library Lines

Thursday of this week and two weeks ago we commemorated the translation of the relics of Sts. Innocent of Irkutsk (2/9) and John Chrysostom (1/27). Hardly a week goes by that the Church doesn't commemorate 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)

Wednesday 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.

St. Blaise(2/11) is a beloved saint of the Orthodox and the Western Church. While hiding from persecutors, wild animals came to his cave and waited for him to finish his prayers before blessing them. He endured many tortures and several of his followers were martyred before him. We ask his intercessions for our domestic animals and for protection against wild ones.