

## From the Fathers (and others):

...faithfully and strenuously, you should resist the heretics in defense of the only true and life-giving faith, which the Church has received from the apostles and imparted to her sons. For the Lord of all gave to His apostles the power of the Gospel, through whom also we have known the truth, that is, the doctrine of the Son of God: to whom also did the Lord declare: 'He who hears you, hears Me; and he who despises you, despises Me, and Him who sent Me' (Lk. 10:16).

- *St. Irenaeus*

Poemen said, "Not understanding what has happened prevents us from going on to something better."

Prayer is spiritual breathing; when we pray we breathe in the Holy Spirit; "praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jd. 1:20). Thus, all church prayers are the breathing of the Holy Spirit; as it were spiritual air and also light, spiritual fire, spiritual food and spiritual raiment.

- *St. John of Kronstadt*

When one has looked upon Jesus, though he be of little stature like Zacchaeus of old (cf. Lk. 19:3), and climb up on the top of the sycamore tree by mortifying his members which are upon the earth (cf. Col. 3:5), and having risen above the body of humiliation, then he shall receive the Word, and it shall be said to him, This day has salvation come to this house (cf. Lk. 19:9). Then let him lay hold on the salvation, and bring forth fruit more perfectly, scattering and pouring forth rightly that which as a publican he wrongly gathered.

- *St. Gregory the Theologian*

Many have said much about love, but you will find love itself only if you seek it among the disciples of Christ. For only they have true Love as love's teacher. 'Though I have the gift of prophecy', says St. Paul, 'and know all mysteries and all knowledge? and have no love, it profits me nothing' (I Cor. 13:2-3). He who possesses love possesses God Himself, for 'God is love' (I Jn. 4:8). To Him be glory throughout the ages. Amen.

- *St. Maximos the Confessor*

Abba Anthony said, "He also said, 'Our life and our death is with our neighbor. If we gain our brother, we have gained God, but if we scandalize our brother, we have sinned against Christ.'"

"The goal of human freedom is not in freedom itself, nor is it in man, but in God. By giving man freedom, God has yielded to man a piece of His divine authority, but with the intention that man himself would voluntarily bring it as a sacrifice to God, a most perfect offering."

- *St. Theophan the Recluse*

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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~ March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ~  
*Orthodoxy Sunday*

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

**His Eminence Metropolitan SABA**  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America  
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of 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 John Berge, Attached

**GREAT VESPERS**  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

**ORTHROS**  
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

## Orthodoxy Sunday

**Epistle:** Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

**Gospel:** John 1:43-51

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

March 24 – 31

(Great Fast)

- Sunday** **Orthodoxy Sunday** (*Morning Services at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church*)  
- Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am  
- Lunch at Annunciation, following Liturgy  
- Great Vespers for the Annunciation, 6:00 pm @ St. John
- Monday** **Annunciation of the Theotokos**  
- First Hour, 6:45 am  
- Orthros for the Annunciation, 8:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation, 9:00 am  
- Great Compline, 6:00 pm  
- Orthodoxy 101, 7:00 pm (\*Note Special Date)
- Tuesday**  
- Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Wednesday**  
- Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am  
- Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 pm  
- Lenten Meal, following Presanctified Liturgy  
- Bible Study, 7:30 pm
- Thursday**  
- Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Friday**  
- First Hour, 6:45 am  
- Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Sixth Hour, 12:00 pm  
- Small Compline with the Akathist, 6:00 pm
- Saturday**  
- Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am  
- Byzantine Chant Class, 4:30 pm  
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday**  
- Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

### Upcoming Memorials

#### March 31:

Maria Bellaflores - 6 years  
Elfrieda Drobashkevsky - 7 years  
Jill Healy - 10 years  
Charles Ingram - 6 years  
Esther Longa - 14 years  
Nancy McGee - 5 years  
Paul Parham - 12 years

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

### **Sunday, 3/24**

*Birthday:* Ian Curry

### **Wednesday, 3/27**

None

### **Monday, 3/25**

*Mary, the Theotokos:* Reem Mansour,  
Vicki Jackson, Ethel Smith, Mary Elliott

### **Thursday, 3/28**

*Birthday:* Chris Boone, Andrew Labonte  
*Anniversary:* Jeff & Monica Bennett

### **Tuesday, 3/26**

*Birthday:* Anna Finley, Michael Sanderlin  
*Archangel Gabriel:* Ben Hodges, Gabby Sneed, Gabe Yadron, Gabriel Powell  
*Anniversary:* Buddy & Pam Bowick

### **Friday, 3/29**

*Birthday:* Sophia Yarbrow, Lucy Hight

### **Saturday, 3/30**

*Birthday:* Elijah Hetrick, Sophie Harms,  
Maggie Turner, Jake Smith, Michael Youngblood

## Commemorations

**March 24:** Venerable Zechariah the recluse and Artemon, bishop of Seleucia; New-hieromartyr Partheios, patriarch of Constantinople.

**March 25:** The Annunciation of the Theotokos.

**March 26:** The Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; Stephen the Confessor.

**March 27:** Martyr Matrona of Thessalonika; Martyrs Philetos and Lydia; Paul, bishop of Corinth; Venerable Euthychios.

**March 28:** Venerable Hilarion the New; Apostle Herodion of the Seventy; Venerable Stephen of Triglia.

**March 29:** Mark, Bishop of Arethusa; Martyr Cyril the deacon of Heliopolis; Martyrs Jonah and Barachisios; Eustathios the Confessor, bishop of Bithynia.

**March 30:** Venerable John of Sinai, author of 'The Ladder;' New-hieromartyr Zachariah, bishop of Corinth; Sophronios, bishop of Irkutsk.

**March 31:** Hypatios the wonder-worker, bishop of Gangra; Venerable Akakios the Confessor, bishop of Melitene; Prophet Joel; repose of Innocent, metropolitan of Moscow, enlightener of the Aleuts and apostle to America; repose of Jonah, metropolitan of Moscow.

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### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Hebrews	11:24-26, 32-40	John	1:43-51
Monday	Hebrews	2:11-18	Luke	1:24-38
Tuesday	Genesis	4:8-15	Proverbs	5:1-15
Wednesday	Genesis	4:16-26	Proverbs	5:15-6:3
Thursday	Genesis	5:1-24	Proverbs	6:3-20
Friday	Genesis	5:32-6:8	Proverbs	6:20-7:1
Saturday	Hebrews	3:12-16	Mark	1:35-44
Sunday	Hebrews	1:10-14; 2:1-3	Mark	2:1-12

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### Remember in Your Prayers

**Our catechumens:** Jeff Bennett; Ben Haag; Thomas & Christy Potts; Andrew Potts; Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, & River Pfeister; Billy & Stacey Murray; Leigh Ann Pompa; John & Lisa Weaver; Hannah Gibson; Richard & Lucas Luper; Michael Pritchett; Taylor Tawbush; Kyle, Jane, Isla & Lachlan Esposito; Michael Youngblood; Ronald Coleman; Brandon Daley

**Prayer Requests:** Mother Raphaela; Schemamonk Paul; Ken Alvis (Dianna Hildebrand's brother); Mary Elliott & family; Chris Hodges; Mickey Hodges; St. Nicholas Orthodox Church; St. Paul Orthodox Mission; Samuel Brownlow; Elizabeth Turner (Jack's mother); Aleksandra Klimkowski & family; Shawn McClenny (Miriam Redmond's brother-in-law); Stephen Hill (Nicholas Hill's brother) & family; Xander Moody (David & Rose McGee's nephew) & family; those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

**Expecting:** Ioana Rustom, Heather Hetrick, Courtney Hagemeyer

**Diocesan Seminarian:** Caleb McGee



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation of the Theotokos** will take place tomorrow morning (Orthros at 8am and Divine Liturgy at 9am). Feel free to bring food for fellowship after Liturgy Monday morning. Fish, wine, and oil are allowed.

Great Vespers for the Annunciation will be held at the church tonight at 6pm.

**Orthodoxy 101** will meet tomorrow evening Monday, March 25th, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Sanctification of Time*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom. **\*Please note date change to Monday nights during Lent.**

**Saturday of Souls** – This Saturday, March 30th, we will celebrate the Liturgy for the departed at 9am. If you have family members that you would like remembered, please send them to Fr. Philip. Please distinguish between Orthodox and non-Orthodox. All of the departed members of St. John will be remembered; you do not need to include those on your list.

**Sermon on the Mount Lenten Retreat in Tupelo** – St. Paul in Tupelo is hosting a Sermon on the Mount Retreat presented by Paul Finley this Saturday, March 30th, from 9:30am-2pm. For more information, please see the insert and the weekly emails.

### Byzantine Chant Class – This Saturday

Byzantine Chant Class will meet this Saturday, March 30th, at 4:30pm. All are welcome as we continue practicing Tone 5 and review some Lenten and Holy Week hymns! Please reach out to Ted (ted@stjohnmemphis.org) if you have any questions! We hope you can join us!

### Great Fast Reminder

As a reminder, 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 use this season to draw closer to our God through our voluntary ascetical work of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving!

**Lenten Meals** – During Lent each year, St. John has shared a meal offered by one or more parishioners following each Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy and on Holy Thursday. Typically, one can count on feeding 70-80 people. Meals can be as simple or involved as you would like. If you, your family, or a group of your friends would like to provide one of these meals, please use the link in the weekly emails to sign up. Cost for the meals is reimbursed upon request. Drinks are provided. One available date remaining: **May 2 (Holy Thursday)**.

**St. John Eagles Basketball** – Come out to support our men's basketball team on Monday nights at the JCC and join us for fellowship afterwards! The games will begin at 8pm. There is a \$3 spectator fee. We hope to see you in the stands and hear your cheers!

**Seeking Volunteers for Room in the Inn for March** – St. John's is signed up to host Room in the Inn tomorrow evening, March 25, to help families with children who continue to find themselves homeless in Memphis each week. This will be the last opportunity to volunteer for the spring, as we will take a break during Lent. Please use the sign-up link on the weekly parish emails or contact Thea Wallace.

**The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club** will meet at the church at 6pm on Sunday, April 7, to discuss *Welcoming Gifts: Sacrifice in the Bible and Christian Life* by Fr. Jeremy Davis. All men are welcome.

**Photos on Bulletin Board** – Is your family pictured on the bulletin board leading into St. Raphael Hall? If not, please see Mr. Trent Terry! He will take your picture and add you to our photos. There are so many new people and it is great to have a tool to put a name to a face.

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## **St. John Youth**

**Today:**

Sunday, 3/24 - Sunday of Orthodoxy at Annunciation

**Next Week:**

Sunday, 3/31 - “Man of God” Discussion & Donuts (Lunch Provided), 12:30-3:00pm

**Looking Ahead:**

Sunday, 4/7 - No Youth Group  
Wednesday, 4/10 - Host Presanctified Dinner, 5:00-8:30pm

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## **Women of St. John Calendar**

**3/27 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am** – Women’s Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

**Birthright Donation Drive** – The AWSJ is collecting donations for baby items to be donated to Birthright for our Lenten Service Project. You may leave new or gently used items (0-9 months) in the bin in the Library. See weekly emails & insert for donation list & more details.

**4/20 (Sat.) DOMSE Lenten Retreat, 10am-12pm via Zoom** – The third annual hub & spoke DOMSE Lenten Retreat will feature a generational panel discussion on “Embracing our Season in Life”. If you are interested in attending the DOMSE Lenten Retreat as a group, please sign up on the sign-up genius link in the weekly emails. The Zoom link will not be distributed individually.

**5/11 (Sat.) Bridal Shower for Mary Elise O’Brien, 1pm** – Please join us at Reem Mansour’s home for a bridal shower honoring Mary Elise O’Brien. Contact Reem at 901-647-5563 if you would like to help in any way. Contact Trish Ratliff if you would like to contribute to the group gift (Venmo @Trisha-Ratliff). The registry can be found at <https://www.zola.com/registry/maryliseandjoe>

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## **LIBRARY LINES**

You know what we do on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, but do you know why? Our Tradition dates back to events in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Visit St. John Library and read about the Iconoclast controversy. Look for *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* by Leo Davis (HIS DAV), *Bible and Church History* by Fr. Thomas Hopko (CAT GEN HOP) and *The Church Year* (CAT CAL SCH) in *The Celebration of Faith* series also by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

The “Uncut Mount” or “Unclouded Mountain” icon of the Theotokos (3/24) was instrumental in the healing of a dysfunctional marriage. A sacrilegious man stole the icon from its place in a church and hid it in his attic. The man’s wife, who had endured much abuse from him, decided on the day before the Annunciation to end her life in an abandoned house. On the way there, a mysterious monk appeared to her and asked, “Where are you going, unhappy one? Go back, pray to the Theotokos of The Clouded Mountain, and you will live in peace.” She returned home and told everything that had happened to everyone. The monk was never found. The icon was restored to its place. Read about icons of the Theotokos and their histories in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and Prayers for Her Intercessions* (ART ICO KHO).

Do you know why the Platytera is in the apse? You will find the answer to this question and most of your others in the St. John Library which devotes a whole category of books to the Most Holy Theotokos. In honor of the Annunciation (3/25), these will all be on display this week. (Hint: Platytera is the icon of the Mother of God, on the wall behind the altar.)

Wednesday we commemorate the Icon of the Mother of God of Mt. Athos, "Sweet Kissing" (3/27). During the ninth century, it belonged to the pious wife of an iconoclast senator. He ordered her to burn it so she threw it into the sea. It stayed standing upright on the waves and appeared near Mt. Athos several years later. The Theotokos appeared to the monks and told them of its arrival. This icon is one of the Eleousa categories (*Virgin of Tenderness*) icons in which the Christ child shows affection to his Mother. It's also commemorated on Bright Monday. Read more about this icon and others of the Theotokos in *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and Prayers for her Intercessions* (ART ICO KHO).

Matrona of Thessalonica (3/27) was the slave of a woman named Pautila who mocked her for her faith. When Matrona's owner discovered she had been secretly attending church, she beat her and locked her in a closet for a few days. The saint was found unharmed and at prayer when the servants opened the closet. Pautila beat her harder and left her shut up longer, but the same thing happened again. The third time, Pautila flogged her, tearing the skin in strips from her body. The martyr gave her soul to God and her body was thrown off the roof. Other Christians found her body and gave it a proper burial, where a church was later built. St. Matrona was martyred in the 3rd or 4th century.

Saturday is the commemoration of an event given greater attention in March and December. It’s the day we remember the meeting of the Theotokos and Saint Elizabeth (3/30). However, sometimes it’s a moveable feast. When it falls between Lazarus Saturday and Pascha, it is celebrated on Bright Friday. How fitting it is that our Holy Mother Church remembers events surrounding the Incarnation during Great Lent.

Saturday is also the feast day of St. John Climacus (3/30). Little is known of the early life of this 6<sup>th</sup> century saint except that he was a son of Sts. Xenophon and Maria (1/26). As a teenager he was tonsured as a monk. After the death of his spiritual father, he spent forty years in asceticism as a hermit. At age 75, St. John was chosen to be the head of a monastery in Sinai. The abbot of another monastery asked him to write an instruction manual for monks in which he was to describe “a ladder fixed in the earth” that would lead men to the gates of Heaven. He is also commemorated on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent.