

From the Fathers (and others):

St. John Climacus:

Humility is constant forgetfulness of one's achievements.

The slave of the belly ponders the menu with which to celebrate the feast. The servant of God, however, thinks of the graces that may enrich him.

As with the appearance of light, darkness retreats; so, at the fragrance of humility, all anger and bitterness vanishes.

When you are depressed, bear in mind the Lord's command to Peter to forgive a sinner seventy times seven (cf. Mt. 18:22). And you may be sure that He Who gave this command to another will Himself do very much more.

Repentance is the renewal of baptism. Repentance is a contract with God for a second life.

When a ray of sunlight enters the house through a crack, it lights up everything inside, and even the finest dust in its beam. So it is with the fear of the Lord, it reveals all the fallibility still lurking there.

The lover of silence draws close to God. He talks to Him in secret, and God enlightens him. Jesus, by silences, shamed Pilate; and a man, by his silence, conquers vainglory.

It is detestable and dangerous for a wrestler to be slack at the start of a contest, thereby giving proof of his impending defeat to everyone. Let us have a firm beginning to our religious life, for this will help us if a certain slackness comes later. A bold and eager soul will be spurred on by the memory of its first zeal and new wings can then be obtained.

Ascend, brothers, ascend eagerly, and be resolved in your hearts to ascend and hear Him who says: Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of our God, who makes our feet like hind's feet, and sets us upon high places, that we might be victors with His song!

In the hearts of the meek the Lord finds rest, but a turbulent soul is a seat for the devil.

Those who enter into the good fight know that it is hard and narrow, and must leap into the fire if they desire the celestial fire to dwell within them.

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ April 14th, 2024 ~

Commemoration of John Climacus

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

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

Commemoration of John Climacus

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Dn. Charles McKelroy.

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

April 14 – April 21

(Great Fast)

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Great Compline, 6:00 pm
- Orthodoxy 101, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am
- Great Canon w/Reading of the Life of Mary of Egypt, 6:00 pm
- NO Lenten Meal following due to length of service
- NO Bible Study
- 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** - Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Today's Churching:
Marija & Bogdana Pavlovic

Upcoming Enrollments – April 21:

D.J. Hobbs
Alex Fleming

Upcoming Baptisms & Chrismations on Holy Saturday –

May 4:

Brian, Danielle, Luree, John
& River Pfeister
Thomas, Christy & Andrew Potts
Leigh Ann Pompa

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 4/14

Birthday: Soren Ortwein, Bill Harter

Monday, 4/15

Birthday: Chelsea Yadron, Tekla Haymanot

Tuesday, 4/16

Birthday: Meagan Jackson

Wednesday, 4/17

Birthday: Peter Cleveland

Thursday, 4/18

Birthday: David Damon, Daniel Damon, Sue Brownlow, Andrew Yadron

Friday, 4/19

Birthday: Lucas Whatley, Lachlan Esposito

Hieromartyr Alphege: Lucas Whatley
St. John of the Ancient Caves: Jack Damon

Saturday, 4/20

Birthday: Heather Hetrick

Commemorations

April 14: Apostles Aristarchos, Pudens and Trophymos of the Seventy; Martyr Thomais of Alexandria; New-martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos.

April 15: Martyr Crescens of Myra in Lycia; Hieromartyr Leonidas, bishop of Athens.

April 16: Martyr Leonidas, Charissa, Niki, Galina and Thodota of Corinth; Virgin-martyrs Irene, Agape and Chionia of Illyria; New-martyr Michael of Smyrna; Venerable-martyr Christopher of Dionysiou monastery on Athos; Hieromartyr Nikita of St. Anne Skete on Athos.

April 17: Hieromartyr Simeon, bishop in Persia; Martyr Adrian of Corinth; Agapitos, pope of Rome, Makarios, archbishop of Corinth; Venerable Zosimas of Solovky; uncovering of the relics of Venerable Alexander of Svir.

April 18: Venerable John, disciple of Gregory of Decapolis; Venerable Euthymios and Athanasios of Aegina; Cosmas the Confessor, bishop of Chalcedon; New-martyr John of Epiros; Venerable Euthymios, enlightener of Karelia.

April 19: Hieromartyr Paphnoutios of Jerusalem; Tryphon, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable-martyr Agathangelos of Esphigmenou monastery on Athos; Venerable Simeon of Philotheou monastery on Athos; Venerable John of Old Lavra in Palestine.

April 20: Venerable Theodore ‘the hair-shirt wearer’; Venerable Athanasios and Joasaph of Meteora; Apostle Zaccheos, bishop of Caesarea.

April 21: Hieromartyr Januarius, bishop of Benevento; Venerable Maximos and Anastasios.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Hebrews	6:13-20	Mark	9:17-31
Monday	Genesis	13:12-18	Proverbs	14:27-15:4
Tuesday	Genesis	15:1-15	Proverbs	15:7-19
Wednesday	Genesis	17:1-9	Proverbs	15:20-16:9
Thursday	Genesis	18:20-33	Proverbs	16:17-17:17
Friday	Genesis	22:1-18	Proverbs	17:17-18:5
Saturday	Hebrews	9:1-7	Luke	1:39-49, 56
Sunday	Hebrews	9:11-14	Mark	10:32-45

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; Fr. Don & Martha Berge; Bill Stanek & family; 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: Heather Hetrick, Courtney Hagemeier, Aryanna Smith

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Orthodoxy 101 will next meet tomorrow, April 15th & again next Monday, April 22nd, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Holy Mysteries of the Church – Part 1 & 2*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom. ***Please note date change to Monday nights during Lent.**

Holy Week and Pascha Surprise!

We were informed this week that Bishop NICHOLAS will be in the area for Holy Week and Pascha. While he is here, he plans to visit Little Rock, Jackson, TN, and Tupelo, MS. His full schedule will be finalized within a week. Lord willing, he will celebrate Great and Holy Pascha here with us. May God give us a joyful celebration!

Parish Council Update

The Parish Council met on Monday evening and most of the discussion centered on general maintenance issues including: the sprinkler system, sound panel repair in St. Raphael Hall, lighting in the nursery and teen room, and tree removal on the property. Thank you for the continued support of the work of the Church!

Save the Date for April 27th – Lazarus Saturday – Parish Breakfast

Join us Lazarus Saturday morning following Divine Liturgy for breakfast and activities for the kids. Fr. Philip will be hearing the children's confessions following breakfast.

Palm Sunday Potluck – April 28th – We will have a **Potluck Meal** together following liturgy to celebrate the feast on Palm Sunday. Please bring a dish or dishes to share!

PLEASE NOTE - *The parish will not be providing fish*, so please keep that in mind if you would like to contribute some fish to our bounty!

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!

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!

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.

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events. For more details & information, please see the weekly parish emails.

- [June 6-9: Christian Education Conference](#) - Antiochian Village Conference & Retreat Center (Bolivar, PA)
- [June 12-15: Parish Life Conference](#) - Hilton Peachtree City Atlanta Hotel & Conference Center (Peachtree City, GA)
- [June 24-29: Icon Painting Workshop](#) - Sts. George & Alexandra Orthodox Church (Fort Smith, AR)
- [July 25-28: Orthodox Young Professionals Conference](#) - JW Marriott Resort (Anaheim, CA)

St. John Youth

Today:

Sunday, 4/14 -

Lunch at Someone's Home (Bring Sides & Desserts),
1:30-3:30pm

This Week:

Sunday, 4/21 -

Discussion & Donuts @Overton (Lunch Provided),
12:45-2:45pm

Looking Ahead:

Saturday, 4/27 -

Youth Host Lazarus Saturday Breakfast & Kids Retreat,
10:30am-1pm

Women of St. John Calendar

4/17 (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.

5/11 (Sat.) Bridal Shower for Mary Elise O'Brien, 1pm – Please join us May 11th at Reem Mansour's home for a bridal shower honoring Mary Elise O'Brien. 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/maryeliseandjoe>



PLEASE SIGN UP online....



- **Palm Sunday Potluck** assistance – Clean up and set up
- **Paschal Vigil** – The sign-up link is online for those wishing to participate in the vigil that is kept in the nave from Taking Down Vespers on Holy Friday until the Paschal Service. For those new to the church, the Psalter and Gospels are read continuously in the church. You may sign up as individuals, families, or with friends to share the reading.
- **Decorating & Set Up for Paschal Feast** on Holy Saturday
- **Kitchen assistance for feast** – receiving and putting out food
- **Agape Picnic** clean up on Pascha afternoon
- **Post-Pascha Clean Up** – taking down of bier during Bright Week, putting decorations away, washing and returning vases

LIBRARY LINES

Today is John Climacus Sunday, but his feast day was March 30. Does St. John Climacus and the *Ladder of Divine Ascent* have anything to do with Jacob's Ladder? Read comparisons of these and commentary on them by Sts. Theophan the Recluse in *The Path to Salvation* (PAT THE), p. 319 ff., Isaac the Syrian in *Ascetic Discourses* (PAT ISA) (see index), and in *Sacred Symbols That Speak*, V. 1 by Anthony Coniaris. John Climacus Sunday is a moveable feast, as are the other Sundays of Lent. The days on which we celebrate them are determined by the date of Pascha. Sts. John Climacus, Gregory Palamas and Mary of Egypt have their own feast days as well. Typically, a saint is commemorated on the day of his death.

Often we hear references of The Seventy. We know about Sts. Timothy, Stephen, Titus, Cleopas, Luke, and Mark; however, many of them are not familiar to us. St. Aristarchus (4/15) is mentioned several times in the Book of Acts and the Epistles of St. Paul. He traveled with St. Paul and was a bishop in Syria. All of them are commemorated on January 4 on the Synaxis of the Seventy.

Saturday we commemorate one who helped us begin our Lenten journey, St. Zacchaeus (4/20). He is an icon to us of putting his repentance into action by climbing a tree to see Christ and giving three-fold restitution to those he had cheated. Tradition tells us that St. Peter ordained him as a bishop and that he died a peaceful death.

Child Martyr Gabriel of Bialystok (4/20) was killed in Poland in 1690 when he was only six years old. One day when his parents were not home, he was lured out of his house by a man named Schutko, and then killed. After thirty years, the martyred child's body was found to be incorrupt. Read more about him in *Let the Little Children Come To Me* (HAG- -SAI).