

## From the Fathers (and others):

The chief end of our life is to live in communion with God. To this end the Son of God became incarnate, in order to return us to this divine communion, which was lost by the fall into sin. Through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we enter into communion with the Father and thus attain our purpose. - St. Theophan the Recluse

The Lord came to send fire upon the earth (cf. Lk. 12:49), and through participation in this fire He makes divine not just the human substance which He assumed for our sake, but every person who is found worthy of communion with Him. -St. Gregory Palamas

True, one may know man's final goal: communion with God. And one may describe the path to it: faith, and walking in the commandments, with the aid of divine grace. One need only say in addition: here is the path – start walking!" -St Theophan the Recluse

The Church is the entrance into the risen life of Christ; it is communion in life eternal, "joy and peace in the Holy Spirit." And it is the expectation of the "day without evening" of the Kingdom; not of any "other world," but of the fulfillment of all things and all life in Christ. In Him death itself has become an act of life, for He has filled it with Himself, with His love and light. In Him "all things are yours; whether the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's (1 Cor 3:21-23). And if I make this new life mine, mine this hunger and thirst for the Kingdom, mine this expectation of Christ, mine the certitude that Christ is Life, then my very death will be an act of communion with Life. For neither life nor death can separate us from the love of Christ. -Fr Thomas Hopko

God gives His communion to all who love Him. Communion with God is life and light and sweetness with all the good things that He has. But those who of their own will forsake him he rewards with separation from Him, which they themselves have chosen. As separation from light is darkness, so also alienation from God is deprivation of all good things which He has. But the good things of God are eternal and without end, so that the loss of them is eternal and without end. Thus sinners shall be the cause of their own torments, just as the blind do not see the light, although it is shining on them. -St. Irenaeus of Lyons

Happiness lies within us, in that unattainable sense of clarity and peace that does not depend on external circumstances, and consequently come not from the outside, but from deep inside. Happiness lies in a clear conscience, in inner certitude and integrity; it lies in a constant inner focus on what is true, good, and beautiful, in constant inner communion with the joy of truth, the joy of goodness, the joy of beauty...Happiness lies in the constant overcoming of busyness and frivolity, envy and fear, self-love and egoism – all of that debris that darkens the soul. Happiness lies in love and in wonderment, happiness lies in gratitude and thanksgiving, happiness lies in orientation upward; happiness, finally, lies in finding the One who is in all of this and who stands behind all of it – in finding God. -Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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~ May 8, 2022 ~

*Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women*

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

**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

## ***Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women***

**Epistle:** Acts 6:1-7

**Gospel:** Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

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

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**

**May 8 - 15 (No Fasting)**

- Sunday** -Orthros, 9am  
-Divine Liturgy, 10am  
-Church School, 11:30am  
-No Teen Group
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45am
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9am  
-Men's Lunch, 12pm
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9am  
-AWSJ Teaching, 10am (Zoom)  
-Vespers, 6pm  
-Bible Study, 7pm
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9am
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45am  
-Third Hour, 9am  
-Sixth Hour, 12pm
- Saturday** -Spinolo-Hoath Wedding, 3:30pm  
-Great Vespers, 5pm *\*note time change*
- Sunday** -Orthros, 9am  
-Divine Liturgy, 10am

## **Birthdays, Anniversaries, Namedays**

### **Sunday, 5/8**

Pauline Koplín, Nathan Powell  
*St. John, the Evangelist:* Fr. John,  
Dan O'Brien

### **Monday, 5/9**

Anniversary: Fr. Don & Kh.  
Martha

### **Tuesday, 5/10**

Joel Finley, Dan O'Brien, Lady Hight

### **Wednesday, 5/11**

Mary Elliott  
Anniversary: Wayne & Erika Parr

### **Thursday, 5/12**

David Twombly

### **Friday, 5/13**

*St. Glyceria:* Melissa White

### **Saturday, 5/14**

## Commemorations

**May 8:** Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian; Venerable Arsenios the Great.

**May 9:** Prophet Isaiah; Martyr Christopher of Lycia; Venerable-martyr Nicholas; translation to Bari of the relics of Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

**May 10:** Apostle Simon Zelotes; Venerable Laurence of Egypt.

**May 11:** Hieromartyr Mokios, priest in Macedonia; Cyril and Methodios, equals-to-the-Apostles and enlighteners of the Slavs; New-martyr Argyros; Venerable-martyr Olympia; Martyr Joseph of Astrakhan.

**May 12:** Germanos, patriarch of Constantinople, Epiphanius, bishop of Cyprus; Venerable Theodore of Kythera; New-martyr John of Wallachia; Hermogenes, patriarch of Moscow.

**May 13:** Virgin-martyr Glykeria of Heraklea; Sergios the Confessor; Venerable John the Georgian, founder of Iviron monastery on Athos and Venerable Euthymios, George and Gabriel of Iviron monastery; Venerable-martyrs of Iviron monastery.

**May 14:** Martyr Isidore of Chios; Hieromartyr Therapont; New-martyrs John of Bulgaria and Mark of Crete; Venerable Isidore of Rostov, fool-for-Christ.

**May 15:** Achilles, bishop of Larisa; Venerable Pachomios the Great; Martyr Barbaros the myrrh-streaming of Corfu; Isaiah, bishop of Rostov; Andrew the hermit; Titos, bishop of Crete; Demetrius, prince of Moscow.

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### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Acts	6:1-7	Mark	15:43-47; 16:1-8
Monday	Acts	6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60	John	4:46-54
Tuesday	Acts	8:5-17	John	6:27-33
Wednesday	Acts	8:18-25	John	6:35-39
Thursday	Acts	26:1, 12-20	Luke	6:40-44
Friday	1 John	1:1-7	John	19:25-28, 21:24-25
Saturday	Acts	9:19-31	John	15:17-27; 16:1-2
Sunday	Acts	9:32-42	John	5:1-15

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### Remember in Your Prayers

**Our catechumen:** Jeff Bennett; Jess Ada & Betty Erickson; Breanna Schoonover; Mitchell, Alicia, & Lily Schaftlein; Emilie Rogers, Shirley Spears; Wilton and Peter Cleveland; Nathan Kurtz; Ashley Powell

**Prayer Requests:** Mother Raphaela, Chris Hodges, Mickey Hodges, Vladimir Drobashevsky, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, St. Paul Orthodox Church, Bill Thomas (Kathryn McWhorter's father), Jamie Escue, Mike Jackson, Sr., those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

**Expecting:** Sandra Curry, Aryanna Smith, Sarah Elliott, Erika Parr, Sarah Ortwein



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Happy Mother's Day!** To those who are celebrating the joy of motherhood, or enduring the hardships of motherhood; to those who long to be mothers and are bearing the burden of infertility; to those who mourn the loss of children, born and unborn; to those who are remembering their own mothers in simple or complicated ways; and to those missing their mothers today, God be with you!

**Orthodoxy 101** – Due to scheduling conflicts, the dates and time for Orthodoxy 101 for the month of May, beginning of June are as follows:

May 17, 6pm – The Sanctification of Time

May 24, 6pm – Orthodoxy and the End Times

June 7, 6pm – Orthodox Worship

**The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club** will meet at 6pm on Sunday, May 22 at Calen Verbist's home to discuss *The Painted Word* by Tom Wolfe. All men are welcome.

**Graduate Sunday** – We will celebrate all of our Graduates on Sunday, June 5. If you are graduating, and are not listed below, please contact the office.

Ava Ortwein - Homeschool

James Elliot – White Station High School

Max Mendenhall – Collierville High School

Sophie Harms – Harding Academy

Ian Curry – MBA, University of Memphis (12/21)

**Dishes** – Please check the table in the front of the hall to see if you have left a dish. There are several casserole dishes, etc. that have been left at the church in the past few months. We want to be sure they make it home!

**Parish Council Update** – The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday evening, May 11 at 8 pm. This is a change from our usual meeting time and will only be temporary. For the next two months, the major item on the council and the parish's agenda is the Parish Life Conference. If you have other items that need to be discussed, please see Fr. Philip or a council member. Thank you for your continued support of our beloved Church!

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### St. John Youth

**This Week:**

No meeting this week

**Upcoming:**

5/15 - Lunch at the Williams' home, 1:30-3:30pm

5/22 - No Youth Group - Ted away

5/29 - Service Project (Memorial Day Weekend)

## Women of St. John Calendar

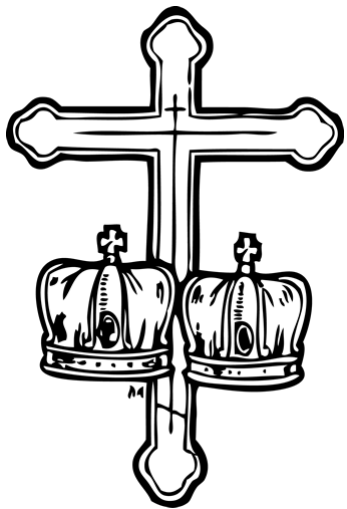
**5/4 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am** – We will meet via Zoom to continue discussing our new book *Becoming Icons of Christ* by Mo. Raphaela.

**5/7 (Sat.) AWSJ Knitting Circle**, 1pm at Catherine Verbist's home

**5/22 (Sun.) Baby Shower honoring Sandra Curry**, 1pm at Deb Mashburn's home.

**6/4 (Sat.) Graduate Brunch, 10am** Help us celebrate Sophie Harms and Ava Ortwein's graduation! The AWSJ will host a brunch to honor our graduates and our newest members of AWSJ.

**6/6 (Mon.) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm**, The Women's Book Club will meet following Lent to discuss *Be My Eyes* by Dustin Stevens.



### *Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for Julia Spinolo and Aris Hoath*

*Saturday, May 22  
3:30 in the afternoon*

*St. John Orthodox Church  
Reception by invitation only*

## LIBRARY LINES

Can you name all of the Myrrh-bearers? Do you know that Sts. Joseph of Arimathea (7/31) and Nicodemus (8/2) are also numbered with the holy women? Do you know each of their connections to Christ? Read their stories in *The Life of the Virgin Mary: The Theotokos* and in *Married Saints of the Church*. Also, look for Alexander Schmemmann's chapter on the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women in his *Celebration of Faith* series, *The Church Year*.

Monday, we commemorate the Prophet Isaiah (5/9). On Holy Friday and Pascha, we sang, "Isaiah saw the never-setting light of the compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ. Rising early from the night he cried out, 'The dead shall arise.' Those in the tombs shall awake. All those on earth shall greatly rejoice." His prophesies about the virgin birth and the sufferings of Christ were also gloriously put to music by George Handel in *The Messiah*. Isaiah died a martyr's death, and his relics are on Mt. Athos.

This week we commemorate two of the Apostles, our own St. John the Evangelist (5/8) and St. Simon the Zealot (5/10). According to the OCA website, Tradition tells us that St. Simon was the bridegroom at the wedding of Cana. From then on, he became a zealous believer in Christ. After Pentecost, he travelled and evangelized extensively from the Black Sea to Britain. He was crucified and is also commemorated on June 30 with the other Apostles. Read more about them in *Disciples of Christ* (KID STS SPR) and *Notes of the Holy Apostles* (REF HAG - - - MAS).

Sts. Cyril and Methodius (5/11) are known as equal to the apostles and enlighteners of the Slavs. Equal-to-the-Apostles is a special title given to some saints in recognition of their outstanding service for spreading the Gospel, which is comparable to that of the original Apostles. (Among others who have been given this distinction are Sts. Mary Magdalene, Nina, Thekla, Helen and Constantine, Nicholas of Japan and Great Prince Vladimir.) Sts. Cyril and Methodius devised a Slavonic alphabet and translated books used in celebrating the divine services and almost the entire Old Testament. Investigate more about them in *Byzantium and the Slavs* (HIS OBO), *Orthodox Alaska* (HIS OLE), and *A Gift for Ianko* (KID STS CYR).

Saturday, we honor the Venerable Isidore, the Fool-For-Christ (5/14). He lived a privileged childhood in Germany, but left home to find the Kingdom of God. He converted to Orthodoxy from Catholicism and wandered to Russia. He made his home in a wooden shack in Rostov. During the day he acted like a crazy man yet he was compassionate and worked miracles. By night, he slept little, praising God in all night vigils. In 1474 the townsmen discovered his body when they passed by his hut and smelled a sweet fragrance. The OCA website says that according to S.A. Bulgakov's *Handbook for Clergy*, he was called Isidore Tvgerdislov, meaning "constant of word," because he talked constantly. Read more about fools-for-Christ in *The Freedom of Morality*, (CAT SPEC YAN), *The Inner Kingdom* (CAT SAC WAR) *Seraphim's Seraphim* (HAG SER HTM), and "Pillars to Heaven: Stylite Sites of the Levant" in *Road to Emmaus*, #22, summer 2005. Read about a modern-day fool-for-Christ in *Crazy John* (BIO JOH MAK).