



## ***St. John Chrysostom Church***

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

[www.stjohngoldenco.org](http://www.stjohngoldenco.org)

9300 W. Dartmouth Pl.

Lakewood, CO 80227

Church Phone: (720) 460-1587

Church email: [frs@stjohngoldenco.org](mailto:frs@stjohngoldenco.org)

Fr. Seraphim Gisetti, Pastor

Phone: 720.938.1302

email: [vrevsg@comcast.net](mailto:vrevsg@comcast.net)

### **March 2016 SJCC News**

My Joy in the Lord,

As we begin Great Lent, let us remember that in the history of the Church, this is one of the Fasts that is considered an absolute requirement to follow.

That being said, much, much, much too often we fulfill the Fast by focusing on what we will or will not eat. We speak in terms of “giving things up”. Children “give up” chocolate or sweets. (Some adults do, too.) We “give up” meat and dairy and fish and oil and wine. But very often we replace them with much more expensive items – lobster, shrimp, and all the vegan dishes that are available in every supermarket. As one Greek writer recently expressed, “we focus on Chemistry and the things of this world.” Instead we really need to focus on the original purpose of the fast – to save money to give to those in need.

Reading the early Christian writers that is all that we find:

- discussions about eating cheaply during the fast so that we have more to give;
- spending less time in the kitchen and on food, so we have more time for God;
- refraining from entertainments so that we can entertain each other by our presence and our interaction.

In other words, we should:

- turn off the TV,
- use our phones as phones only,
- use our computers for reading and writing,
- skip Netflix and movies, restaurants and Starbucks,
- eat as cheaply as we can rather than worrying about ingredients (Chemistry) or Fasting rules,
- and have conversations with each other and with our Lord.

For some, I know, this will be impossible to sustain for 48 days. Then do what you can – one day or half day at a time. The Lord blesses the intention and the effort as well as the endeavor.

#### **Something to Ponder:      It's Strange                      – Author Unknown**

It's strange, how \$20 seems like such a large amount when you donate it to the church  
but such a small amount when you go shopping.

It's strange, how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church  
and how short they seem when you're watching a movie.

It's strange, that you can't find words to say when you're praying,  
but have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend.

It's strange, how difficult it is to read one chapter of the Bible,  
but how easy it is to read a novel.

It's strange, how everyone wants front-row tickets to concerts  
but want to sit in the last row at church.

It's strange, how we need to know about an event at church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can plan for it,  
but we can make time for everything else at the last minute,

It's strange, how difficult it is to learn about God and share it with others,

but how easy it is to repeat gossip.  
It's strange, how we believe what we read in magazines and newspapers,  
but question the teachings of the Church.

**NOTE: What is nice about St. John's is how few of these items actually apply. Thank you, for truly being, my JOY in the Lord.**

With love, in Christ,  
Fr. Seraphim

**“The Mind of the Orthodox Church: How our theology and our ecclesiology has been expressed over the centuries. Session 2 from 400 to 1500”** started on January 27, and will continue every Wednesday at 6:30 pm, for 13 weeks. Please feel free to bring your dinner and/or snacks to share during these sessions. Come whenever you can, even if you can't come for the entire time or every week. Even if you miss some, you are welcome to join at any time.

**Home Blessings:** Because I am still not 100%, I have not done more than a few Home Blessings. Normally, all Home Blessings are to be completed before the start of the Fast, but I will continue until I can visit everyone. I will be contacting you individually to set up a time to visit. I appreciate your consideration.

**March is Women's Month.** In accordance with the custom of the Archdiocese, the women of the parish are asked to do all the Epistle readings, holding the Communion cloth, and reading the Thanksgiving Prayers at the Sunday Liturgy during this month. There is a signup sheet for the Epistle readings on the passthru to the office as you walk in. Everything else is to be done by whoever is willing. So please do anything that you see needs doing!

**Lenten Discussion after Presanctifieds will be an extension of the Mind of the Church class.** Note that the last session will be on April 20. We will resume with Session 3 in September (which will bring us up to modern times/this year.)

**Prayer Circle:** The Prayer Circle is a group of Parishioners who, at least once each week, spend some time asking God to care for and bless various individuals who are in need of His Mercy. If you wish to be part of the Prayer Circle or would like more information, please contact Alexandra Gisetti at [alexandra.gisetti@gmail.com](mailto:alexandra.gisetti@gmail.com).

**Sunday School for our Young Ones – every Sunday during Coffee hour.**

**We are continuing with the \$5-a-Month Club** to support the priests in Uganda. Please see the little article later on in the Newsletter.

**Pysanky with Masha: Saturday, March 26, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.** Come, learn the art of Ukrainian Egg Decorating with Masha.

- If you have “pysankied” before, please bring your kistkas, dyes, wax, etc.
- If this is your first time, you can order a basic kit at [www.ukrainiangiftshop.com](http://www.ukrainiangiftshop.com) (KIT2D – Kit #2 Standard Kit w/ delrin - \$11.98 plus shipping).
- Dyes can be made up in mason jars for easy transport.
- Blown eggs will be provided.
- Children 8 yrs of age and older are invited to participate.

**Church Cleaning for Pascha** will be on Sunday, April 17, after Coffee Hour **until 3 pm**. Bring some work clothes to change into. We will have a lot of things to wash and polish as well as some cleaning around the outside of the building as well.

**Sign up sheet for the Paschal Meal is in the kitchen.**

**Teaching Liturgy will be again on Lazarus Saturday.** The Teaching Liturgy is one in which I bring everything out into the middle of the Church and do the Liturgy from the center. I also take time to explain various aspects. This year the focus will be on the Anaphora and why we use specific items with specific contents or shapes for the Eucharist.

**Silent Auction and Fund-raiser for our church** will be held some time this Summer (date to be determined). I am not comfortable with having it at the Paschal Vespers and BBQ on Myrrhbearers Sunday because that is a day when we invite the Metro area clergy and faithful to celebrate the Paschal Feast with us. Just as other churches do not have fund-raisers at the Lenten Vespers, I don't believe we should have it at the Paschal Vespers either.

#### **Parishioner Celebrations**

**NOTE: If you don't see your day listed OR see your day listed on the wrong day PLEASE let Fr. Seraphim know – as soon as possible**

#### **March**

03/04	Namesday	Jaime Rall
03/15	Birthday	Nickolas Higgins
03/19	Birthday	Joseph Mikita
03/19	Birthday	John Rahe
03/21	Birthday	Jonathan Spencer
03/24	Birthday	Alyssa Dovey
03/25	Namesday	Leah Kacere
03/26	Namesday	Larissa Spencer

#### **April**

04/01	Birthday	Alexandra Gisetti
04/01	Namesday	Masha Gisetti
04/23	Namesday	Alexandra Gisetti
04/25	Namesday	Robert Kinsey
04/30	Namesday	Donald Wallace

#### **PROSPHORA Baking Schedule**

**REMINDER:** PLEASE make sure that you bring ONE (and only one) prospophora with names for commemoration -this includes both living and departed, if some of the living or departed are not Orthodox, I want them anyway - to church at least the night before the date on which it is due. You can bring it up to three weeks before and we'll freeze it until the date, but don't try to bring it that morning. I usually start the Proskomedie early and need the prospophora to be there. If it's not there by the night before, I will defrost a spare to use. Thank you for your consideration.

#### **March**

6	Open
13	Joe Mikita
20	Jonathan Spencer
27	Alexandra Gisetti

#### **April**

3	Open
10	Open
17	Alexandra Gisetti
24	Don Wallace

**We will always need prospophora.** I will be happy to come to your house and bake them with you if you're not sure how to do it.

## The SAMP \$5-a-Month Club

You are invited to participate in a new program associated with OCMC SAMP. The \$5-a-Month Club is a special program being undertaken among the parishes of Colorado to raise the salaries of priests in Uganda. This program is very narrowly focused on the priests in Uganda not because they are more needy than clergy in other parts of the world but because we need to start somewhere and their plight came to light via a local contact who visited Uganda on a mission trip.

Up to two years ago, some of the priests in Uganda were receiving a stipend from OCMC of \$50 a month. Then, Metropolitan Jonah of Uganda asked that, instead of only a few priests receiving a stipend, all priests were to be given a stipend. Unfortunately, this meant that there was only enough money to give \$25 to each priest every month. For some, this meant a 50% cut in their income.

Every individual who contributes, gives a maximum of \$5 per month or \$60 per year. No more, no less. The money can be given monthly or in one lump sum at the beginning of the year.

Why the limitation? Because this program is not about raising specific sums, but, rather, making small contributions which create an impact out of proportion from their value to us. Many people would like to (and could) give much more than \$60 a year, but this program doesn't allow them to do so. The limitation of \$5 a month is also meant to allow us to split our charity among more than just these priests. It is done with the hope that each one of us will use this program as a springboard to take the rest of the money we can give and spread it among the other needs that exist: IOCC, other OCMC programs, FOCUS, the Seminaries, and our churches.

You can send your checks or establish a scheduled donation through your Bill-Pay process to St. John Chrysostom Church, 9300 W. Dartmouth Pl. Lakewood, CO 80227. All funds collected will go to the OCMC SAMP (Support A Mission Priest) program dedicated to the priests in Uganda.

## Schedule of Services and Events

### March

2	Wed	6:30 pm	<u>The Mind of the Church (Session2)</u>	
5	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
6	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Last Judgment (Meatfare)</b>
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
9	Wed	6:30 pm	<u>The Mind of the Church (Session2)</u>	
12	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
13	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
			Vespers of Forgiveness	
14	Mon		<b><u>Start of Great Lent</u></b>	
		7:00 pm	Compline and Great Canon	
16	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy & Lenten Potluck	
			<u>The Mind of the Church (Session2)</u>	
18	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia (Akathist to the Theotokos)	
19	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
20	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent - Orthodoxy</b>
			Procession with Icons	
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
		5:30 pm	Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers	Assumption Cathedral
23	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy & Lenten Potluck	
			<u>The Mind of the Church (Session2)</u>	
25	Fri	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy	<b>Annunciation to the Theotokos</b>
			Lenten Potluck	
26	Sat	1:30 pm	Pysanky Workshop with Masha	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
27	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – Gregory Palamas</b>
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
		5:00 pm	Lenten Sunday Vespers	Transfiguration Cathedral
30	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy & Lenten Potluck	
			<u>The Mind of the Church (Session2)</u>	

### April

1	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia (Akathist to the Theotokos)	
2	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
3	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – The Cross</b>
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
		5:00 pm	Lenten Sunday Vespers	St. Herman Church
6	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy & Lenten Potluck	
			<u>The Mind of the Church (Session2)</u>	
8	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia (Akathist to the Theotokos)	
9	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
10	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – St. John Climacus</b>
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
		5:00 pm	Lenten Sunday Vespers	St. Elias Church
13	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy & Lenten Potluck	

The Mind of the Church (Session2)

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

15	Fri	7:00 pm	Lauds of the Theotokos	
16	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
17	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – St. Mary of Egypt</b>
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
			<b>CHURCH CLEANING FOR PASCHA</b>	
		5:00 pm	Lenten Sunday Vespers	St. Catherine Church
20	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy & Lenten Potluck	
			<u>The Mind of the Church (Session2)</u>	
23	Sat	9:00 am	Teaching Liturgy	<b>Lazarus Saturday</b>
		5:00 pm	Vespers with blessing of Palms	
24	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)</b>
			Children's Procession	
			Coffee Hour	
			<b>NO Sunday School</b>	
25	Mon	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Matins	<b>Holy Monday</b>
26	Tue	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Matins	<b>Holy Tuesday</b>
27	Wed	4:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy	<b>Holy Wednesday</b>
		7:00 pm	Matins of Holy Thursday and Unction Service	
28	Thu	4:00 pm	Vesperal Liturgy of the Last Supper	<b>Holy Thursday</b>
		7:00 pm	Matins of Holy Friday (12 Gospels)	
29	Fri	9:00 am	Royal Hours	<b>Holy Friday</b>
		3:00 pm	Vespers (Burial Service)	
			Canon of the Theotokos	
		7:00 pm	Lamentations	
30	Sat	10:00 am	Vesperal Liturgy	
		11:30 pm	Nocturne	