



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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April 2017 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

Every year, as we approach Pascha, we fill Holy Week with daily services. I encourage everyone to come to as many as possible so that when we arrive at Pascha we truly have a celebration that reflects our Spiritual journey.

As a reminder to everyone, here are the themes that fill the last week of our preparation for the joy of the Resurrection:

Lazarus Saturday: The resurrection of Lazarus and the idea that Christ loved him so much that His sorrow caused Him to cry. We will have Liturgy on Saturday morning

Palm Sunday: Christ's triumphal entry and His sorrow over the people who would turn their backs on Him in a few days. We will have Vespers on Saturday and Liturgy on Sunday with the Children's procession.

Holy Monday: The fig tree (those who do not bring forth fruits when called to do so and expected by God) and the 2nd coming (we cannot know the time – it will catch us by surprise)

Holy Tuesday: Fulfilling what is required of us by the rulers of this world without being captured by this world. Our focus is always on God and His Kingdom. We will have (Bridegroom) Matins on Monday night.

Holy Wednesday: Judas' betrayal of His Lord. We will have Matins on Tuesday night and the final Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday afternoon with the final recitation of the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian.

Holy Thursday: The institution of the Eucharist. We will have Matins on Wednesday night together with the Sacrament of Unction and the Liturgy of the Last Supper on Thursday afternoon.

Holy Friday: The arrest, "trial", crucifixion and burial of our Lord. We will have the Matins with the 12 Gospels recounting it all on Thursday night. Royal Hours with the whole story again on Friday morning and the Vespers with the taking down from the Cross and the Burial on Friday afternoon.

Holy Saturday: The descent into Hades and the preaching to those in hell and their resurrection. We will have the Matins on Friday night with the Lamentations and the Vespertal Liturgy with the Harrowing of Hell on Saturday morning.

Pascha Sunday: The Resurrection of Christ. The service begins on Saturday evening at 11:30 pm and rolls directly into Paschal Matins and Paschal Liturgy and the Breaking of the Fast. In the afternoon we have the Vespers with Christ's first appearance to His disciples and the reading of the Gospel in as many languages as we can manage.

I hope that you can come to all but pray that you will come to more than a few. :-)

With love, in Christ,
Fr. Seraphim

Because of the weather, the cleaning this Saturday, April 1 will be of the downstairs. Please come if you can safely travel!

Please be reminded that:

1. **The Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday, April 8 is a teaching Liturgy.** I will be doing it in the middle of the church and we will be covering what the vestments stand for, the Trisagion and the Epistle and Gospel and the history of the procedures of Communion. **Please bring a snack** as we will be making the Palm crosses for the following day after Liturgy, doing the cleaning and polishing of all the liturgical items as well as the icons in church, preparing the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt and decorating for Palm Sunday!
2. **There will be a Children's Procession** following Liturgy on Palm Sunday. They will be encouraged to hold candles for the procession so, parents, please watch over them.....
3. **The sign-up sheet for Pascha** is available by the kitchen. Everyone is invited to stay after Paschal Liturgy to break the Fast together.
4. **The blessing of Paschal baskets will take place after Pascha Liturgy by the Sunday School room.**
5. **The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow Agape Vespers on Pascha.**
6. **Bright Monday:** The annual Gisetti Open House will follow Bright Monday Liturgy until 3 pm. Masha and I hope you can celebrate this tradition with us and invite you to bring something to share with all.
7. **For those who follow the Russian tradition of the Paschal Artos,** it will be available after Liturgy on Thomas Sunday. Please see Fr. Seraphim to get some.
8. **There will be a Paschal Vespers on April 30 (Myrrhbearer's Sunday) with Open House and BBQ to follow.** Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to this service. We do invite all the other clergy to participate in this celebration.

Some Holy Week traditions:

1. **Palm Sunday:** Take the Palm crosses and/or Palm stalks and/or Pussywillow branches home after the Liturgy and Procession. Put over your icons until the following Palm Sunday.
2. **Holy Thursday:** Hold candles during the 12 Gospels. Take the flame home (we have special candles that can be used) and mark a cross with the flame over each door to the house. Use the special candles to keep the flame burning until you come home from Pascha services.
3. **Holy Friday:** Take a flower from the tomb when venerating the Epitaphios/Plaschanitsa at the end of the Lamentations service. Put the flower with your icons.

Help requested: Ken Fredrickson would like to come up to Denver for Pascha and is asking if anyone can put him up from Holy Thursday through Pascha?

We are continuing with the \$5-a-Month Club to support the priests in Uganda. Please join – just write a check for \$5 every month or \$60 for the 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.

We have two Fund-raising opportunities – through Amazon Smile and through the Archdiocesan on-line Purchasing – please see the notice at the end of the newsletter for details of how you can participate.

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**

April

04/01 Birthday Alexandra Gisetti
 04/01 Namesday Masha Gisetti
 04/09 Birthday Kristin Brown
 04/23 Namesday Alexandra Gisetti
 04/23 Namesday Alexandra Zinng
 04/24 Birthday Alexandra Zinng
 04/25 Namesday Robert Kinsey
 04/30 Namesday Donald Wallace

May

05/03 Anniversary John & Kristin Brown
 05/03 Birthday Anna Gisetti
 05/03 Repose Robert Baldwin
 05/04 Birthday Robert Saieg
 05/08 Anniversary Bert & Margo Waisanen
 05/08 Birthday Paul Saieg
 05/09 Namesday Christopher Cheaqui
 05/09 Namesday Chris Dovey
 05/13 Birthday Xavier Ogden
 05/14 Birthday Kylee Gisetti
 05/14 Birthday Ricky Hill
 05/14 Birthday Russell III Zinng
 05/15 Birthday Alexander Watson (Higgins)
 05/17 Birthday Hannah Fox
 05/19 Ordination Fr. Seraphim Gisetti
 05/20 Birthday Darya Goudzwaard
 05/23 Repose Charlene Kinsey
 05/24 Birthday Alyssa Dovey
 05/27 Anniversary Alex & Ketino Beim
 05/31 Anniversary Andrei & Jacque Gisetti

Parish Responsibilities

| | Prospora | Epistle | Communion help | Coffee Hour |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| April | | | | |
| 2 | Masha Gisetti | Joe Mikita | Pelagia & Kylee | Veselak |
| 9 | Palm Sunday | Andrei Gisetti | Kaitlin & Hanna | Potluck |
| 16 | PASCHA | Andrei Gisetti | Taisia & Alyssa | Potluck |
| 23 | Alexandra Gisetti | Jonathan Spencer | Pelagia & Kylee | Baldwin |
| 30 | Don Wallace | Seraphima Rahe | Kaitlin & Hanna | Perkins |
| | | | | |
| May | | | | |
| 7 | Margo Waisanen | Chris Dovey | Taisia & Alyssa | Wallace |
| 14 | Gene Hill | Susan Arnold | Pelagia & Kylee | Mother's Day Brunch |
| 21 | Alex Beim | Joe Mikita | Kaitlin & Hanna | Yakubik |
| 28 | Andrei Gisetti | Margo Waisanen | Taisia & Alyssa | Baker |

Schedule of Services and Events

April

| | | | | |
|----|-----|-----------|---|--|
| 1 | Sat | 10:00 am | Cleaning | |
| | | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 2 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | St. Mary of Egypt (5th Sunday of Lent) |
| | | | Coffee hour & Sunday School | |
| | | 5:00 pm | Pan Orthodox Vespers – St. Luke's | |
| 5 | Wed | 6:30 pm | Presanctified Liturgy | |
| | | | Lenten Potluck and Discussion | |
| 8 | Sat | 9:00 am | Teaching Liturgy | Lazarus Saturday |
| | | | Potluck Brunch | |
| | | noon-3 pm | Church Cleaning | |
| | | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 9 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) |
| | | | Children's Procession (Special Collection for the Patriarchate) | |
| | | | Coffee hour & NO Sunday School | |
| 10 | Mon | 7:00 pm | Bridegroom Matins | Holy Monday |
| 11 | Tue | 7:00 pm | Bridegroom Matins | Holy Tuesday |
| 12 | Wed | 4:00 pm | Presanctified Liturgy | Holy Wednesday |
| | | 7:00 pm | Matins of Holy Thursday & Unction Service | |
| 13 | Thu | 4:00 pm | Vespertal Liturgy of the Last Supper | Holy Thursday |
| | | 7:00 pm | Matins of Holy Friday (12 Gospels) | |
| 14 | Fri | 9:00 pm | Royal Hours | Holy Friday |
| | | 3:00 pm | Vespers of Holy Saturday (Burial) | |
| | | | Compline (Lament of the Theotokos) | |
| | | | Common Confession | |
| | | 7:00 pm | Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations) | |
| 15 | Sat | 9:30 am | Vespertal Liturgy of Holy Saturday | Holy Saturday |
| | | 11:30 pm | Nocturne | |
| | | Midnight | Paschal Procession | PASCHA |
| 16 | Sun | 00:15 am | Paschal Matins | |
| | | | Paschal Liturgy | |
| | | | Paschal Breakfast (Potluck) | |
| | | noon | Agape Vespers | |
| | | | Children's Easter Egg Hunt | |
| 17 | Mon | 9:00 am | Bright Monday Liturgy | Bright Monday |
| 22 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 23 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Thomas Sunday |
| 29 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 30 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Myrrhbearers |

May

| | | | | |
|----|-----|---------|---------|---|
| 6 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 7 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Paralytic |
| 13 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 14 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Samaritan Woman |
| 20 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 21 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Blind Man |
| 25 | Thu | 6:30 pm | Liturgy | Ascension of our Lord |
| 27 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 28 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council |

The rest of the Pan-Orthodox Lenten Schedule is:

April

2 Sun 5:00 pm Pan Orthodox Vespers – St. Luke's, Erie

DEACON JAMES TOCHIHARA of St Mark/Denver, CO will be ordained to the holy priesthood on Sunday, May 14th. Greetings may be sent to him and **SHAMASSY JUDITH** at jtochihara@gmail.com Everyone is invited to the ordination and/or to the breakfast afterwards. Please contact Carol McCabe of St. Mark's at carolmccab9@aol.com with your RSVP.

On Palm Sunday, we will have the annual Special Collection for the Patriarchate!

PROSPHORA Baking

REMINDER: PLEASE make sure that you bring ONE (and only one) prospora 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 prospora to be there. If it's not there by the night before, I will defrost a spare to use. Thank you for your consideration.

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

Amazon Smile Program

1. Instead of using www.amazon.com, use smile.amazon.com
2. Bookmark smile.amazon.com in all of your browsers
3. Search for St. John Chrysostom Church (Christian – Lakewood, CO)
4. Select it as your charity.
5. Always use smile.amazon.com when purchasing from Amazon. Everything will look the same and work the same as on www.amazon.com including Prime if you have it.

EXCEPT, St. John's will get a (small – 0.5%) donation of every purchase that you make.

THIS DOES NOT COST YOU ANY MORE.

That's it.

Thank you



St. John Chrysostom Rewards Program

Program Overview:

1. A digital savings and fundraising platform for our ministry.
2. The program creates an automatic monetary contribution to our ministry as a percentage of your online spending.
3. This program is endorsed by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

How Does It Work?

1. Shop at thousands of your favorite retailers, such as Target, Best Buy, Nordstrom, Home Depot, Kohl's, J. Crew, and more.
2. Save by taking advantage of discounts and deals including %-off discounts, \$-off discounts, and free shipping.
3. Support the parish, as a percentage of every purchase you make at participating retailers is contributed back to the ministry at no additional cost to you.

How Do You Participate:

1. Go to antiochian.org/rewardsprogram and register with your email address.
2. Remember to visit antiochian.org/rewardsprogram prior to making online purchases to enable a contribution to St. John's and to discover relevant savings offers for you. OR
3. Install the antiochian.org/rewardsprogram support button on your Chrome, Firefox, or Safari browser to automatically support the ministry every time you make a purchase—without having to visit the deal site first.