



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

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
[www.stjohngoldenco.org](http://www.stjohngoldenco.org)

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### **January 2012 SJCC News**

My Joy in the Lord,

I pray that all of you have a wonderful year. I know that 2011 was a difficult year for many, let us pray that 2012 be a banner year for our parish and each one of us.

I truly hope that God will grant you a peaceful life, health, and success in all good things.

For our parish, I invite each of you to consider bringing a neighbor, or a friend, to church some Sunday. The Good News – the “Evangelion” - of Jesus Christ is rarely spread by advertising or looks, it is usually spread by one person saying to another, “I have something to share that I think you will like”. I have heard many of you say how much you enjoy coming to our church. Won't you share that with someone you know?

With love, in Christ,  
Fr. Seraphim

**THANK YOU** – for contributing to the St. Philothea Project and our local families. You have helped make their Christmas and their lives better and brighter.

#### **Parishioner Celebrations in January & February**

**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**

01/07	Namesday	Ladd Moravek
01/07	Namesday	Sean Weddingfeld
01/15	Birthday	Matthew Bourquin
01/17	Birthday	Nathan Berry
01/17	Birthday	Larissa Spencer
01/22	Namesday	Timothy Spencer
01/22	Namesday	Timothy Wretling
02/03	Birthday	Dana Berry
02/03	Birthday	Masha Gisetti
02/04	Birthday	Maria Mantas
02/14	Anniversary	Micky & Fanny Negreanu
02/16	Birthday	Priscilla Negreanu

## **PROSPHORA Baking Schedule**

PLEASE make sure that you bring ONE (and only one) prospora with names for commemoration 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 Proskmedia 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. I don't need more than one. If you bake two or more, keep the rest and use them as you would any other home-made bread. Despite having a seal, they are not blessed and can be eaten just like regular bread.

### **Jan**

1 Ladd Moravek  
8 Sean Weddingfeld  
15 Matthew Bourquin  
22 Timothy Wretling  
29 Masha Gisetti

### **Feb**

5 Olga Peyton  
12 Micky & Fanny Negreanu  
19 Fr. Seraphim  
26 Fr. Seraphim

### **Day of Service signups:**

THANK YOU for all the hard work you have put in during this past year. Your efforts have created a blessing for many. Let's continue our work for the Church, our Lord and each other.

**Looking ahead: (Mark your calendars – see the 2012/2013 schedule at the end)**

### **Games Night – TBD**

We had a wonderful time last year and plan to have another series of Game Nights this year – Stay tuned for more information.

### **Heritage Festival – TBD**

It has been proposed to have a Heritage Festival, where each family/person provides food and history based on their family heritage. Responses have been very positive for doing this but a time has not yet been set – please think about what you want to present and provide and stay tuned.

## **The Holiday of Theophany**

The origins of the Holy Day of Theophany are lost in the early days of Christianity. Most probably it is the first Christian celebration that had a fixed day in the Christian calendar. The word “Theophany” means “the appearance of God”. It is celebrated by every Christian community having roots in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

The early celebration was very obviously patterned on the very early Church celebration of Pascha – before even the establishment of a Great Lent - with suitable modifications. Where Pascha very obviously has a daily pattern following the path of our Lord up to His crucifixion and resurrection, the Theophany had no similar pattern. In fact, it included three (some would say four) very distinct happenings separated by years: the birth of Jesus Christ, the coming of the Wise men (and the flight into Egypt with its return and settling in Nazareth – which is sometimes counted as separate from the Wise men), and the Baptism of our Lord, which concludes His “preparation” and inaugurates His Teaching ministry. This combination of elements comprised the “Winter Pascha” and was one of the three Baptismal dates of the year (the other two being Pascha and Pentecost).

So, why did the Early Church celebrate these three elements together? We can make a very educated guess both from the name – Theophany – and from what we know about the approach the Early Church had towards the purpose of the Church: to preach Christ crucified and resurrected. The Gospels are not historical records – they are preaching records. They record the preaching of the apostles not the life of Jesus Christ. Even St. Luke, who adds historical data, does it from the standpoint of saying that “this happened – not in the abstract but at a specific time and in front of specific people. For the apostles, the Nativity was an event that had to happen but one which had no significance in and of itself. Its significance lay in the later actions of our Lord. The Wise men and the flight into and return from Egypt had an importance only in relationship to the prophetic announcement and the prophetic fulfillment that they made. The Baptism was the focal point of the celebration because it was there that the Trinity appeared and revealed itself.

Just as Pascha has a Sunday Before and a Sunday After that have their own importance, so we can assume that the Winter Pascha also had these celebrations. The Sunday Before would have been dedicated to the prophets and patriarchs who came before Christ – just as the two Sundays before the Nativity are so dedicated today. The Sunday After is probably unchanged – the Gospel reading for the Sunday After the Theophany is that Christ begins His preaching – and signals for the Church the real meaning of the coming of our Lord - “to enlighten those who sat in darkness”.

So, why and when did the Church change the Theophany to the celebration of the Baptism of Christ and the Epiphony and split that from the Nativity and the Wise Men? Both I and others have spoken about the need in Rome to create a Christian celebration to take place during a major pagan one. I will not repeat that history. But I will note that no group that left the central Body of the Christian Church prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> century celebrates December 25. In other words, while Rome began celebrating December 25<sup>th</sup> sometime in the very late 300's or early 400's, the rest of the Christian Church did not start to do the same until the 500's or later. As to why this happened, let's face it, it is much more interesting to celebrate a child in a manger than a man getting dunked in water. The coming of God was very abstract for many, even though it is theologically very important. The images of Joseph, Mary and an infant Jesus in a cave with a manger speak to more hearts than images of adult John and Jesus – even with a dove, a cloud, and the river Jordan to make things interesting.

But, especially in the modern world, we need to bring back into our lives the teaching and the preaching of God coming into the world – not as an infant – but as a teacher, preacher, healer, and Savior. The reason I will come with Holy Water to your house is to remind each of us, that God came into the world to sanctify all of it, to restore all of it, to redeem all of it – back to what it should have been if not for the Fall.



## Schedule of Services and Events

### January

1	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
5	Thu	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy	<b>Theophany of our Lord and the Blessing of Water</b>
7	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
8	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
14	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
15	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
21	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
22	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
28	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
29	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	

### February

2	Thu	6:30 pm	Liturgy & Potluck	<b>Meeting of our Lord</b>
4	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
5	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Publican & the Pharisee
11	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
12	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Prodigal Son
14-17			<i>Clergy retreat (Fr. Seraphim will be away)</i>	
18	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers & Open Discussion	
19	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Meatfare
25	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
26	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Cheesefare (Forgiveness Sunday)
			Vespers of Forgiveness	
27	Mon		<u>Great Lent begins</u>	
		7:00 pm	Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	
29	Wed	6:30 pm	PreSanctified Liturgy	
			Lenten Potluck and Discussion	

## House Blessing Schedule

Fri	6	17:00	K. Yakubik
		18:30	A&J Gisetti
		19:30	J&M Fox
Sat	7	10:00	N&D Berry
		11:30	A. & A. Gisetti
		12:00	C Baldwin
		14:00	E&J Jerome
		20:00	B&M Waisanen
Sun	8	13:00	S&J Weddingfeld
		14:30	K Fredrickson
		16:00	A. Emmons
		17:30	M&F Negreanu
		19:00	J. Rall
		20:30	L. Moravek
Tue	10	18:30	D. Mikita
		20:00	P. Negreanu
Wed	11	17:00	O. Peyton
		19:30	K. Perkins
Thu	12	17:30	E&P Leshinski
		19:00	J&J Mikita
Fri	13	17:30	J&L Grace
		19:00	J&L Spencer
Sat	14	10:00	C. Emmons
		12:00	D. Rahe
		14:00	S&T Kurtz
Sun	15		Catchup

### For House Blessings:

Please have a candle, an icon, and a small bowl ready on a table/counter where we can gather around and pray. I will bring the Holy Water and everything else that I need. I will go through your entire house/apartment with the Holy Water. I do ask that you lead me around – to turn on lights and open doors, etc. Afterward, I'd love to have a glass of water or a cup of tea with you. I do schedule roughly an hour to spend at each house, so I do ask – no coffee and no meals. I appreciate that many of you would like to have me come and have dinner with you – let's do it another time. We have the rest of the year to schedule something like that, and yes, Masha will be happy to come with me at that other time.

## **2012 / 2013 General Schedule of Services**

(see monthly newsletter for exact times and dates)

### **2012**

#### **January**

5 Thu 6:30 pm Liturgy **Theophany of our Lord**

#### **February**

2 Thu 6:30 pm Liturgy **Presentation of our Lord**

27 Mon ***Great Fast begins***

#### **March**

25 Sun 9:00 am Liturgy **Annunciation**

#### **April**

8 Sun 9:00 am Liturgy **Palm Sunday**

15 Sun midnight Matins & Liturgy **PASCHA**

#### **May**

24 Thu 6:30 pm Liturgy **Ascension of our Lord**

#### **June**

3 Sun 9:00 am Liturgy **Pentecost**

11 Mon ***SS. Peter & Paul Fast begins***

29 Fri 6:30 pm Liturgy **SS. Peter & Paul**

#### **August**

1 Wed ***Dormition fast begins***

6 Mon 6:30 pm Liturgy **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

15 Wed 6:30 pm Liturgy **Dormition of the Theotokos**

#### **September**

8 Sat 9:00 am Liturgy **Nativity of the Theotokos**

14 Fri 6:30 pm Liturgy **Elevation of the Cross**

#### **November**

13 Tue 6:30 pm Liturgy **St. John Chrysostom (Patronal Feast)**

15 Thu ***Nativity Fast begins***

21 Wed 6:30 pm Liturgy **Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos**

#### **December**

24 Mon 9:00 am Royal Hours ***Nativity Eve***

Vesperal Liturgy

7:00 pm Vigil

25 Tue 9:00 am Liturgy **Nativity of our Lord**

**2013****January**

6	Sat	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Theophany of our Lord</b>
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**February**

2	Fri	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Presentation of our Lord</b>
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**March**

18	Mon			<i>Great Fast begins</i>
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25	Mon	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Annunciation</b>
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**April**

28	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
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**May**

5	Sun	midnight	Matins & Liturgy	<b>PASCHA</b>
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**June**

13	Thu	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Ascension of our Lord</b>
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23	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Pentecost</b>
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29	Sat	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>SS. Peter &amp; Paul</b>
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**August**

1	Thu			<i>Dormition fast begins</i>
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6	Tue	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>
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15	Thu	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Dormition of the Theotokos</b>
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**September**

8	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Nativity of the Theotokos</b>
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14	Sat	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Elevation of the Cross</b>
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**November**

13	Wed	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>St. John Chrysostom (Patronal Feast)</b>
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15	Fri			<i>Nativity Fast begins</i>
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21	Thu	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos</b>
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**December**

24	Tue	9:00 am	Royal Hours	<i>Nativity Eve</i>
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			Vesperal Liturgy	
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		7:00 pm	Vigil	
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25	Wed	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Nativity of our Lord</b>
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# JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
<b>1</b> New Year's Day 9 am Liturgy  St. Basil the Great Circumcision of our Lord	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Theophany Eve  6:30 pm Vesp. Lit. Blessing of Water	<b>6</b> THEOPHANY of our Lord	<b>7</b>  5 pm Vespers																																																																																		
<b>8</b> 9 am Liturgy	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  5 pm Vespers																																																																																		
<b>15</b> 9 am Liturgy	<b>16</b> ML King Day	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  7 pm Inquirers Disc.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  5 pm Vespers																																																																																		
<b>22</b> 9 am Liturgy	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  5 pm Vespers																																																																																		
<b>29</b> 9 am Liturgy	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>																																																																																						
		<b>December 2011</b> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>February 2012</b> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29				<b>Notes:</b> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #f8d7da; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <span>Denotes a fasting day</span>  <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #f4cccc; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <span>Denotes a strict fasting day</span>  <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #f08080; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <span>Denotes a total fast day</span> </div>
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# FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Meeting of our Lord  6:30 pm Liturgy	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  5 pm Vespers
<b>5</b> 9 am Liturgy  Publican & Pharisee	<b>6</b> Fast Free Week	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  5 pm Vespers
<b>12</b> 9 am Liturgy  Prodigal Son	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentines Day  <i>Clergy</i>	<b>15</b>  <i>Retreat</i>	<b>16</b>  <i>Clergy</i>	<b>17</b>  <i>Retreat</i>	<b>18</b>  5 pm Vespers
<b>19</b> 9 am Liturgy  Meatfare	<b>20</b> President's Day	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  5 pm Vespers
<b>26</b> 9 am Liturgy Vespers of Forgiveness Cheesefare Forgiveness Sunday	<b>27</b> <i>Great Lent Begins</i>  7:00 pm Compline Great Canon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  6:30 pm Presanctified Discussion			

**January 2012**

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29	30	31				

**March 2012**

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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**Notes:**

- Denotes a fasting day
- Denotes a strict fasting day
- Denotes a total fast day