



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
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February 2012 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

First of all, thank you for your prayers. I am feeling better but this infection has a long way to go before I am well of it. I do not plan on eliminating any services during my convalescence but I will be curtailing other activities. My doctor says that it will take all of this month before I can expect to feel completely normal. I am not sick – that phase has passed, I am, simply, not as well as I would like to be.

I cannot begin to express how grateful I am for the love – for God and each other – that we share and that you express daily. Thank you for being wonderful people of God.

At the end of this month we begin Great Lent. Our discussion topic will be taken from the early epistles that are no longer included in the New Testament. The book is available through our Bookstore. I hope that you will consider spending Wednesday evenings with your Parish family for the 6 weeks of Lent.

Regarding our Day of service signups: The food that you provide gives smiles and enjoyment to all, but the cleanup you provide afterwards is your gift to God to make His place ready for worship. Even though it is done at the end of our day together – it is really the first act of the next worship service. “Prepare, O Bethlehem! Make ready, O Ephratha” are the words used before the Nativity to remind us that even though most of humanity slept, the world made ready to receive the King of All. Think of the cleanup that we do as the preparation to receive the Savior the next time we gather.

With love, in Christ,
Fr. Seraphim

Day of Service signups:

Please continue to sign up for Coffee Hour and cleanup – this is an important aspect of what is meant by being one of the People of God- to help serve each other.

Antiochian Women's Fund Raiser

The St. John's Antiochian Women's group will be sponsoring a pre-lenten "Italian themed" fund raising lunch on February 19, 2012, after Divine Liturgy. We are asking for a donation of \$10.00 per plate. We hope to have everyone join us for a delicious lunch – Bring a friend!

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. We will meet this Sunday, Feb 5, after Liturgy to discuss ideas and options. Please bring our ideas and yourselves to this important meeting.

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.

Parishioner Celebrations in February & March

**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**

February

| | | |
|-------|-------------|------------------------|
| 02/03 | Birthday | Dana Berry |
| 02/03 | Birthday | Masha Gisetti |
| 02/04 | Birthday | Maria Mantas |
| 02/10 | Birthday | Natalia Issatchenko |
| 02/14 | Anniversary | Micky & Fanny Negreanu |
| 02/16 | Birthday | Priscilla Negreanu |

March

| | | |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|
| 03/04 | Namesday | Jaime Rall |
| 03/08 | Birthday | Claire Emmons |
| 03/10 | Birthday | Paula Leshinski |
| 03/13 | Namesday | Christine Negreanu |
| 03/15 | Birthday | Ladd Moravek |
| 03/18 | Namesday | Eric Jerome |
| 03/19 | Anniversary | Olga Payton |
| 03/19 | Birthday | Joseph Mikita |
| 03/20 | Namesday | Claire Emmons |
| 03/21 | Birthday | Jonathan Spencer |
| 03/21 | Birthday | Olga Payton |
| 03/26 | Namesday | Larissa Spencer |
| 03/31 | Birthday | Christine Negreanu |

PROSPHORA Baking Schedule

PLEASE make sure that you bring ONE (and only one) prospkhora 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 prospkhora 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.

Feb

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

Mar

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 4 | Jaime Rall |
| 11 | Paula Leshinski |
| 18 | Eric Jerome |
| 25 | Larissa Spencer |

A BRIEF ORTHODOX HISTORY OF TIME

Fr. Seraphim Gisetti

I. Creation

In the beginning, God created the earth in 6 days. On the 7th day He rested. On the 8th day, He came and saved us. This is known as the theology of the 8th day. It has been part of Christian Tradition almost since the beginning of the Church, though it was expounded mostly by St. Simeon the New Theologian in the 14th century.

Obviously, early Christians understood the 6 days of Creation as being God's days, not man's. So how long is God's day? I have no idea. I think it's as long as He wants it to be and there's nothing which says that two of His days have to be the same length, either, from our perspective.

When man was created, it was the culmination of a long process, even the angels were created before him. And then, man fell. He sinned; he decided that his opinion and his will were more important than God's. And in falling, he destroyed all the perfection that God had created. Why? Because God had put man in charge. God created, but then He passed on His creation to man – not to control it or despoil it, but to take care of it. And when man decided to do things his way, all of creation was affected.

The decision to go against the Will of God is what brought death into creation – not as a punishment, but as a consequence. If God is Life, then to be, not even against God, but simply, not aligned with God, is to be aligned with death. Death is the straying from the path of Life. This is true for all mankind. For animals, they die because the stewards of Creation, we, do not follow the path of life. Our failure, our sin, is the cause directly and indirectly of every death in all of creation. We, through our sins, become responsible for every wolf that catches a deer out of hunger, every bird that has a mosquito on the wing.

Does this mean that by stopping to sin, we could end death? No. Because we would have to stop every sin, not just our own, not just those going forward, but every sin ever done. The existence of even one sin, one step from the path of Life, and death reigns.

So what about the Devil? He took the first step away from God, away from the path of Life. And God, in His Love created a place for him – Hades. A place for all those who do not want to walk the path of Life. God isolated death from Himself and His Creation. But man was in charge of Creation, he was part of it, he could not be isolated from his essence, so all of Creation fell.

But from the first moment that man (Adam in Hebrew) had to leave paradise, God put into motion the process of our salvation.

(to be continued)

There's no other state – one is either alive or dead.

Schedule of Services and Events

February

| | | | | |
|-------|-----|---------|--|---------------------------------|
| 2 | Thu | 6:30 pm | Liturgy & Potluck | Meeting of our Lord |
| 4 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 5 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Publican & the Pharisee |
| | | | Parish Council Meeting | |
| 11 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 12 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Prodigal Son |
| | | | Antiochian Women's Meeting | |
| 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 |
| | | | Fund Raiser Lunch | |
| 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 & Discussion | |

March

| | | | | |
|----|-----|----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 3 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 4 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Sunday of Orthodoxy |
| | | 5:00 pm | Lenten Vespers – Assumption Cathedral | |
| 7 | Wed | 6:30 pm | Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Potluck & Discussion | |
| 10 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 11 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | St. Gregory Palamas |
| | | 5:00 pm | Lenten Vespers – Transfiguration Cathedral | |
| 14 | Wed | 6:30 pm | Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Potluck & Discussion | |
| 17 | Sat | 9:00 am | Teaching Liturgy | |
| | | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 18 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Sunday of the Cross |
| | | 5:00 pm | Lenten Vespers | |
| 21 | Wed | 6:30 pm | Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Potluck & Discussion | |
| 24 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |
| 25 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy | Annunciation to the Theotokos |
| | | 5:00 pm | Lenten Vespers | |
| 28 | Wed | 6:30 pm | Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Potluck, Mini Discussion & Great Canon | |
| 30 | Fri | 7:00pm | Akathist to the Theotokos | |
| 31 | Sat | 8:30 am | Liturgy | Lauds of the Theotokos |
| | | 10:00 am | Retreat with Fr. Chad Hatfield | |
| | | 5:00 pm | Vespers | |

2012 / 2013 General Schedule of Services

(see monthly newsletter for changes)

2012

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**

FEBRUARY 2012

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

January 2012

| 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 | | | | |

March 2012

| 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 |

Notes:

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

MARCH 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|-------------------|---|----------|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 5 pm Vespers |
| 4 9 am Liturgy | 5 | 6 | 7 6:30 pm Presanctified Discussion | 8 | 9 | 10 5 pm Vespers |
| 11 Daylight Savings 9 am Liturgy | 12 | 13 | 14 6:30 pm Presanctified Discussion | 15 | 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day Teaching Liturgy 5 pm Vespers |
| 18 9 am Liturgy | 19 | 20 Vernal equinox | 21 6:30 pm Presanctified Discussion | 22 | 23 | 24 5 pm Vespers |
| 25 9 am Liturgy ANNUNCIATION | 26 | 27 | 28 6:30 pm Presanctified Discussion Great Canon | 29 | 30 7:00 pm Akathist SVOTS Presentation | 31 8:30 Liturgy Fr. Chad Retreat 5 pm Vespers |




February 2012

| 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 | | | |

April 2012

| 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 | | | | | |

Notes:

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