



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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December 2013 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

For many years I have struggled with what to do about all the Christmas carols and other Christmas themes that constantly surround us during Advent. I grew up with Christmas (or, rather, the Nativity) being a magical time that began on December 25 (or, rather, January 7) rather than ending then. To me, still, the idea of Christmas is something that ends at Theophany, not on Christmas.

However, when thinking in terms of transfiguring the world rather than abandoning it, I have come to the conclusion that we need to embrace this advent season and think in terms of Christmas carols being part of the preparation for Christmas rather than it's fulfillment. It is striking that almost all of the religious carols are not heard now. We need to bring them out of the closet and make them the real "Sounds of Christmas", or, rather, "Sounds of Advent". Even the Church sings the Irmoi of the Nativity Canon ("Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is on earth, receive Him...") during Advent as a way of reminding us of what is coming. We should make the Nativity story the theme of our preparation rather than accepting Rudolph and Santa and toys and the Ginger Bread man as the defining ideas of Christmas.

The First Noel, Silent Night, and We Three Kings are among those carols that we need to hear more of during this season!

Please come on December 8 to help our children focus on the important things of life.

With love, in Christ,
Fr. Seraphim

St. Nicholas is coming! December 8 we will have our annual St. Nicholas day, but this year we will also inaugurate a children's program as part of the festivities. Remember that we put our shoes out in the vestibule during the visit.... AWOOG (Antiochian Women) will also have a fund raiser for our Christmas family on the same day. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (infants are free). As always, the Christmas family is anonymous but we will have details of ages and wishes soon.

House Blessing schedule will be emailed out towards the end of the month.

PACKING DAYS: As we are going to be leaving the Golden Rd site, we will have two packing Sundays in January – January 19 and January 26. PLEASE COME AND HELP PACK UP OUR CHURCH! We will be storing most of our things in storage until we have our own place again.

Adult Discussions: 3:30 on the last Saturday of the month. These are a combination of Bible Study and open discussions about the Faith.

PROSPHORA Baking Schedule

December

1 Margo Waisanen
8 Jaimy Weddingfeld
15 Jonathan Spencer
22 Christina Veselaak
29 Dana & Nathan Berry

January

5 Sean Weddingfeld
12 Larissa Spencer
19 Timothy Wretling
26 Tania Young

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

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**

December

12/02 Namesday Margo Waisanen
12/03 Birthday Margo Waisanen
12/06 Namesday Haley Bergren
12/06 Namesday Nickolas Higgins
12/09 Namesday Hannah Fox
12/11 Birthday Micco Waisanen
12/12 Birthday Jaimy Weddingfeld
12/15 Namesday Jonathan Spencer
12/16 Birthday Samuel Wretling
12/21 Birthday Jacque Gisetti
12/26 Birthday Christina Veselak
12/27 Namesday Stephen Wretling
12/30 Anniversary Dana and Nathan Berry
12/31 Namesday Melia Weddingfeld

January

01/01 Namesday Bishop Basil
01/01 Birthday Kelsey Gomez
01/02 Namesday Seraphima Rahe
01/07 Namesday Sean Weddingfeld
01/12 Namesday Tania Young
01/17 Birthday Nathan Berry
01/17 Birthday Larissa Spencer
01/22 Namesday Timothy Spencer
01/22 Namesday Timothy Wretling
01/27 Birthday Dino Souleotis
01/28 Birthday Tania Young

Schedule of Services and Events

December

1	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
7	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
8	Sun	8:00 am	<u>Matins</u>	
		9:00 am	Liturgy	
			St. Nicholas Visit	
			AWOG Fund-raising Luncheon	
14	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
15	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday of the Forefathers
21	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
22	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday of the Fathers
24	Tue	9:00 am	Royal Hours & Vespers	Nativity Eve
		7:00 pm	Vigil	
25	Wed	9:00 am	Liturgy	Nativity of our Lord
28	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
29	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Saints James, David and Joseph
			Prayer for the New Year	

January

3	Fri	9:00 am	Royal hours	
4	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
5	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Theophany Eve
			Blessing of Water	
6	Mon	6:30 pm	Liturgy	Theophany
11	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
12	Sun	8:00 am	<u>Matins</u>	
		9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday after Theophany
18	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
19	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			PACKUP DAY 1	
25	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
26	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			PACKUP DAY 2	

Looking ahead - 2014 General Schedule of Services

(see monthly newsletter for changes)

2014

January

6 Mon 6:30 pm Liturgy & Potluck **Theophany** (note - blessing of Water will be on Sunday)

February

2 Sun 9:00 am Liturgy **Meeting of the Lord**

March

3 Mon

Beginning of Great Lent

25 Tue 6:30 pm Vesperal Liturgy & Potluck **Annunciation to the Theotokos**

April

20 Sun Midnight Procession, Matins, Liturgy **PASCHA**

May

29 Thu 6:30 pm Liturgy & Potluck **Ascension**

June

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

16 Mon *Apostles Fast begins*

29 Sun 9:00 am Liturgy **Ss. Peter & Paul**

August

1 Fri *Dormition Fast begins*

6 Wed 6:30 pm Liturgy & Potluck **Transfiguration of our Lord**

15 Fri 6:30 pm Liturgy & Potluck **Dormition of the Theotokos**

September

8 Mon 6:30 pm Liturgy & Potluck **Nativity of the Theotokos**

14 Sun 9:00 am Liturgy **Elevation of the Theotokos**

November

13 Thu 6:30 pm Liturgy & Potluck **St. John Chrysostom (Patronal Feast)**

15 Sat ***Nativity Fast begins***

21 Fri 6:30 pm Liturgy & Potluck **Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos**

27 Thu 9:00 am Liturgy **Thanksgiving Day**

December

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

Vesperal Liturgy

Vigil

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