



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

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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## **February 2015 SJCC News**

My Joy in the Lord,

Lent is almost upon us, but first comes the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord (sometimes also called the "Presentation" of the Lord). This feast, coming 40 days after the Nativity, commemorates our Lord's parents bringing Him to the temple to fulfill the requirements of the Law. What is also interesting is that this Feast came to be combined with the blessing of candles – those candles that would be used in the church for the following year - probably because Winter was a time for making candles (and other things that would be needed by a family throughout the year that could be made when the weather was cold outside). Since we don't actually make candles as a society any more, we simply buy them from those who do, we rarely bless candles any more.

However, the idea that putting up a candle as we walk into church is not just an act of tradition, but an act of Faith, is good to remember. Candles are blessed for two reasons. First because they will be used in the Altar and in the church as a reminder of Faith and as a light to us as we pray. Second, they are blessed because we will light them as a symbol of our individual prayer and our personal Faith. When we light a candle, we are not just lighting a flame, we are making a statement that our faith is not hidden, our Christian life is not in darkness. This doesn't mean that we have to light a candle when we come into church or else we are some sort of bad Christian, but it does mean that we should not just walk into church as if we were coming to a hall, but that, coming with reverence, we should see the candles as a statement for ourselves, not anyone else, of our faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We light a flame praying that it may be a symbol for the flames we light in the lives of those around us!

With love, in Christ,  
Fr. Seraphim

**Please note that we are starting the Pre-Lenten Cycle this Sunday, Feb. 1!**

**Blessing of Candles** will be done this year at the Liturgy on February 2. Note, since we buy candles as we need them, we will not be blessing candles for the entire year, just some of what we have on hand.

**Prayer Circle:** If you wish to be part of the Prayer Circle or would like more information, please contact Rebecca Ogden at [r.braaten@comcast.net](mailto:r.braaten@comcast.net).

**Work Day on February 14 – please bring your enthusiasm and your muscles!!!**

**Parish Family Fun Nights:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month we will be creating an evening of relaxation and fun for the whole family – whether there is only one of you, or four, or something in between - after Vespers. We will start with a potluck and then have sometimes games, sometimes movies, etc. The first night will be on February 21. We will be showing the movie "Ostrov" for the adults, and a special feature for the children. I hope you will join us for this community event!

**Lenten Discussions:** We will again have discussions during the meal on Wednesday nights after the Presanctified Liturgy. The topics will be selected “Psalms” of St. Ephraim the Syrian as chosen and compiled by St. Theofan the Recluse (A Spiritual Psalter or Reflections on God). The readings will be available in hard copy at church later this month. If you want to purchase the entire book, please see Lara Spencer and she will have them available through our bookstore. We'll try to get them cheaper than on Amazon....

### **Lenten Discussion Schedule**

2/25 # 5, 10, 13  
3/4 # 15, 20, 24  
3/11 # 26, 28, 57  
3/18 # 63, 74, 117  
3/25 # 125, 135  
4/1 # 138, 149

**Pysanky with Masha:** Learn the art of Ukrainian egg decorating on Saturday, March 7 at 1 pm. Please let Masha know (303.358.1360 or [mgisetti@comcast.net](mailto:mgisetti@comcast.net)) if you are interested in participating; class size is limited to 10, ages 8 and up.

If you already have supplies, (Masha prefers not to use wooden kistkas) please bring them, including 4 colors of ready dyes. If you need supplies, please order Kit #2 – Standard Kit with delrin (id=KIT2D, \$11.98) from the Ukrainian Gift Shop ([www.ukrainiangiftshop.com](http://www.ukrainiangiftshop.com)). You will need to make the dyes up at home, (Mason jars work really well) with yellow, orange, red (or scarlet), and black or royal blue a day or two before the class and bring them ready for use on March 7.

**Teaching Liturgy:** We will go back to having the Teaching Liturgy for anyone interested on Lazarus Saturday, which is on April 4 this year.

### **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**

#### **February**

02/03	Birthday	Dana Berry
02/03	Birthday	Masha Gisetti
02/18	Diaconal Ordination	Fr. Seraphim Gisetti
02/21	Birthday	Ken Fredricksen
02/21	Birthday	Michael Ogden
02/22	Birthday	Manda Baker

#### **March**

03/04	Namesday	Jaime Rall
03/19	Birthday	Joseph Mikita
03/19	Birthday	John Rahe
03/21	Birthday	Jonathan Spencer
03/25	Namesday	Leah Kacere
03/26	Namesday	Larissa Spencer
03/31	Birthday	Dcn Michael Tarris

### PROSPHORA Baking Schedule

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

#### February

1 Masha Gisetti  
 8 Fr. Seraphim  
 15 Ken Fredricksen  
 22 Manda Baker

#### March

1 Open  
 8 Open  
 15 Joe Mikita  
 22 Leah Kacere  
 29 Dcn Michael Tarris

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

### Schedule of Services and Events

#### February

1	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</b>
2	Mon	6:30 pm	Liturgy with Blessing of Candles Festal Potluck	<b>Meeting of our Lord</b>
3	Tue	7:00 pm	A Different Bible Study	
7	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
8	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b>
10	Tue	7:00 pm	A Different Bible Study	
14	Sat	noon 5:00 pm	<b>Work Party at church</b> Vespers	
15	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>Meatfare Sunday</b>
17	Tue	7:00 pm	A Different Bible Study	
21	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers <u>Parish Family Fun Night ("Ostrov")</u>	
22	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour Forgiveness Vespers	<b>Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday</b>
23	Mon		<i>Beginning of Great Lent</i> 7:00 pm Great Canon	
24	Tue	7:00 pm	Great Canon A Different Bible Study	
25	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck Dinner & Discussion	
26	Thu	7:00 pm	Great Canon	
28	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	

**March**

1	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent - Orthodoxy</b>
		5:30 pm	Lenten Vespers	
3	Tue	7:00 pm	A Different Bible Study	
4	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck Dinner & Discussion	
6	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia	
7	Sat	1:00 pm	<u>Pysanky with Masha</u>	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
8	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent – St. Gregory Palamas</b>
		5:30 pm	Lenten Vespers	
10	Tue	7:00 pm	A Different Bible Study	
11	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck Dinner & Discussion	
13	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia	
14	Sat	noon	<b>Work Party at church</b>	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
15	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent – The Cross</b>
		5:30 pm	Lenten Vespers	
17	Tue	7:00 pm	A Different Bible Study	
18	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck Dinner & Discussion	
20	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia	
21	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers <u>Parish family Fun Night (Games)</u>	
22	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – St. John of the Ladder</b>
		5:30 pm	Lenten Vespers	
21	Mon	7:00 pm	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	
24	Tue	7:00 pm	A Different Bible Study	
25	Wed	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy Lenten Potluck Dinner & Discussion	<b>The Annunciation to the Theotokos</b>
26	Fri	7:00 pm	Praises of the Theotokos	
28	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
29	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – St. Mary of Egypt</b>
		5:30 pm	Lenten Vespers	
31	Tue	7:00 pm	A Different Bible Study	