



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

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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### **March 2015 SJCC News**

My Joy in the Lord,

As we move through the Fast, I pray that you are successful in your journey. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> Troparion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ode of the Canon for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Lent says: “Abstain from the passions and so be saved, O passionate soul, for taking away food is an unwelcome fast for those who seek truth if there will be no improvement to our transgressions.”

Included in this newsletter are some questions that we need to answer as we plan ahead for our facility. They deal not only with the landscaping, but also with the building. I have asked everyone to think about how we want to expand the building. While it meets our needs today, it won't very soon.

There is a truism – form follows function, but also function follows form. This means that while any expansion will be defined by how we want to use the space, existing space defines how we can use it. The location of the kitchen and the adjoining room defined that that area is used as a fellowship hall. The multi-level construction of one room defined that it was not usable as the worship space. With three great rooms, that meant that the other room would be the worship space and the multi-level room became, de facto, the Sunday School room.

When we do expand, how we expand will be defined by how we want to use the entire space. Please look around and think about what we need and where we can put it. Do we build a separate church structure? Or, do we do an addon, expanding existing space? What about fellowship space? What should be done to create classrooms so that our children are not in a “one-room schoolhouse”? What about the downstairs? And what about the outside?

Also, we need to look at maintenance. Just vacuuming up after everyone is a chore. How will we manage the yard and anything that we add?

Please remember that the root of the word “parish” is paroikia – a second **home**. This is **our** home that we need to take care of just as much as we do our primary home. We also need your input as to how this parish facility can be made, truly, YOUR home.

With love, in Christ,  
Fr. Seraphim

**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 March 14 beginning at noon. We will be working on lights in the church, lights outside – to illuminate the walkway and parking lot, and re-arranging the stored items downstairs.** Please join us if even for only a couple of hours. All help is welcome as we continue to make our home more hospitable to us.

**Lenten Retreat with Paul Saieg.** Paul will give a Lenten retreat on Saturday, March 28, from 1 to 4:45 pm. Cost is free but donations are gladly accepted (bring a snack to share...). The topic is: “According to the Scriptures: How to read Scripture to be formed in the Hands of God”.

**Pysanky with Masha:** Learn the art of Ukrainian egg decorating on Saturday, March 7 at 1 pm. Please let Masha know (303.358.1360) if you are interested in participating; class size is limited to 10. If you already have supplies, (Masha prefers not to use wooden kistkas) please bring them, including 4 colors of ready dyes.

**Teaching Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday.** We will have our teaching Liturgy again on Lazarus Saturday at 9 am.

**It has been suggested that we have a Parish BBQ after Agape Vespers.** Before scheduling this I would like to hear your thoughts on the matter. Would you prefer to move the Agape Vespers to 2 or 3 pm? I am already proposing moving it to 1 pm this year unless parents prefer the noon time since we have the children's egg hunt immediately afterwards.

### **SOME THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE - BOTH IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM FOR OUR NEXT BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON MARCH 29**

We need to keep in mind that Lakewood Planning and Zoning is requiring that we increase our parking space before we do any modifications/construction.

Right now we fit up to 50 people, including choir, servers, infants and children, in the worship space. But it is very tight. We cannot significantly increase the space without going outside the current exterior walls.

Should we build a new church building or expand the current space? For how many people?

What about our fellowship space?

What about classrooms?

It is probable that we cannot serve more than 150 people on the present site, no matter how we expand. Do you agree? If yes, then that means that we need to think about how long are we going to be on this site.

Three things that have been suggested for the current worship usage are: 1) get rid of most of the chairs in church, leaving a few around the walls, or 2) stop trying to make a full procession for the entrances until we have more space and just do the short procession, adding some chairs along the wall plus one more row, or 3) do both. What are your thoughts?

### **Aspects and questions of landscape design by Don Wallace**

Functional: How will these areas get used? Are there special occasions or events in particular, including processions, worship, fellowship, picnics, meditation, counseling, prayer, games, weddings, birthdays, and receptions? Are there other uses for these areas? Who will use it? How many? When? What seasons? Can people, tables, chairs and various types of equipment move or be moved easily to, from, or through an area? Is there a need for permanent outdoor seating such as seat walls or benches? Is there a need for electricity and lighting? Where? Are there safety and security concerns? Are there any issues of privacy (visual and/or auditory)? Are there needs for protection from rain, wind, and/or sunlight (eg. gazebo, pergola, lattice, wall, berms)? How will the areas function together as a whole? Is it accessible and usable for people with disabilities? Is it child friendly? Will this design function well 5, 10, and 30 years from now? Will it accommodate increased numbers in Saint John's community? Does it relate well to future expansion plans, including additions to the building, and changes in sidewalks, driveways, parking? Does drainage work well? Can drainage be channelized to irrigate plants? Does the design minimize water usage/irrigation? Does the design minimize fire risk? Is there a need for storage space/s? Should some existing pavement, ramps, decks, trees, shrubs, gravel areas or grasses be removed? Do some areas require new hard surfaces? If so, what kind? Will the design facilitate the exterior maintenance of the building? Is there an area for composting clippings and leaves? Is the design compatible with neighborhood children, pets, and wildlife? Which area or areas have the greatest priority? Are there other ideas or concerns?

Low Maintenance: The design and installation should allow for a minimal amount of periodic painting, staining, repairing, mowing, weeding, watering, pruning, sweeping, and raking. Can the design be maintained with a minimum of specialized skills, tools, and materials? Are current or future members of our parish able and available to do maintenance as needed in a timely fashion?

Durable: Will the design and its components last for future decades? Are the installed materials compatible with the climate and expected usage? Are trees and plants suitable for the climate and soil conditions? Is the current sprinkler system usable for long-term?

Aesthetic: Does the design relate well to the environmental, cultural and historical aspects of the setting? Is it appealing and approachable to members of the parish as well as neighbors and visitors of various backgrounds? Does it communicate qualities of Orthodoxy insofar as architecture (including landscape architecture) is language? Is it beautiful? Do both the vertical and horizontal qualities of the design work well? Does it feel pleasant and secure to be in each of the places/ zones of the design? Is the materiality of the hardscape visually compatible with the building? Is it aesthetic during all seasons?

Affordable: Do we have members who are skilled and available to complete some or all of the installations in a timely fashion? Are appropriate free or discounted building and landscape materials and plants available? Do we have the funds to complete a specific phase/s? Will we have the funds to hire future maintenance services which cannot be done by church members? Are we willing to escrow funds for such expenses?

### 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**

#### 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 |

#### April

|       |          |                   |
|-------|----------|-------------------|
| 04/01 | Birthday | Alexandra Gisetti |
| 04/01 | Namesday | Masha Gisetti     |
| 04/23 | Namesday | Alexandra Gisetti |
| 04/25 | Namesday | Robert Kinsey     |

### PROSPHORA Baking Schedule

**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.

#### March

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

#### April

|    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 5  | Parish            |
| 12 | PASCHA            |
| 19 | Alexandra Gisetti |
| 26 | Robert Kinsey     |

**We will always need prosphora.** 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

### March

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

### April

|   |     |         |   |  |
|---|-----|---------|---|--|
| 1 | Wed | 6:30 pm | Presanctified Liturgy                                 |  |
|   |     |         | Lenten Potluck Dinner & Discussion                    |  |
| 4 | Sat | 9:00 am | Teaching Liturgy                                      | <b>Lazarus Saturday</b>                      |
|   |     |         | Making of Palm Crosses and Church Cleaning for Pascha |  |
|   |     | 5:00 pm | Vespers   |  |
| 5 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy   | <b>Entrance into Jerusalem – Palm Sunday</b> |
|   |     |         | Coffee Hour   |  |
| 6 | Mon | 7:00 pm | Bridegroom Matins                                     | <b>Holy Monday</b>                           |

|    |     |          |   |                           |
|----|-----|----------|---|---------------------------|
| 7  | Tue | 7:00 pm  | Bridegroom Matins                           | <b>Holy Tuesday</b>       |
| 8  | Wed | 5:00 pm  | Presanctified Liturgy                       | <b>Holy Wednesday</b>     |
|    |     | 7:00 pm  | Matins of Holy Thursday and Unction Service |                           |
| 9  | Thu | 4:00 pm  | Vespers of the Last Supper                  | <b>Holy Thursday</b>      |
|    |     | 7:00 pm  | Matins of Holy Friday (12 Gospels)          |                           |
| 10 | Fri | 9:00 am  | Royal Hours                                 | <b>Holy Friday</b>        |
|    |     | 3:00 pm  | Vespers of Holy Friday (Burial)             |                           |
|    |     |          | Compline                                    |                           |
|    |     | 7:00 pm  | Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations)      |                           |
| 11 | Sat | 10:00 am | Vespers of Holy Saturday                    | <b>Holy Saturday</b>      |
|    |     |          | <b>Final cleaning for Pascha and setup</b>  |                           |
|    |     | 11:30 pm | Nocturne                                    |                           |
| 12 | Sun | midnight | Paschal Procession                          | <b>PASCHA</b>             |
|    |     |          | Paschal Matins                              |                           |
|    |     |          | Paschal Liturgy                             |                           |
|    |     |          | Paschal Meal                                |                           |
|    |     | 1 pm     | Agape Vespers                               |                           |
| 13 | Mon | 9:00 am  | Bright Monday Liturgy                       | <b>Bright Monday</b>      |
| 18 | Sat | 5:00 pm  | Vespers                                     |                           |
| 19 | Sun | 9:00 am  | Liturgy                                     | <b>Thomas Sunday</b>      |
|    |     |          | Coffee Hour                                 |                           |
| 25 | Sat | 5:00 pm  | Vespers                                     |                           |
| 26 | Sun | 9:00 am  | Liturgy                                     | <b>Myrrhbearing Women</b> |
|    |     |          | Coffee Hour                                 |                           |