



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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August 2015 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

With August we begin the Dormition Fast, only two weeks long and broken by the feast of the Transfiguration, on which we bless grapes and other fruit. In some traditions, these blessed grapes were then used to make the church wine for the year, in others, these were grapes for eating. There is an instruction to monks that any monk eating grapes before August 6 was to be forbidden grapes until the following year! With modern grocery stores, this is not something that we can or should follow.

The feast of the Dormition falls on Saturday, and so our Liturgy will be in the morning. Several of us have decided to break the Fast after Liturgy with a hamburger at Atomic Burgers in Golden. You are invited.

At the end of the month is the Commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist on August 29. It is a tradition (not a Tradition) that we do not use round plates or knives to eat or serve food on that day. It is also a strict Fast Day.

With love, in Christ,
Fr. Seraphim

Reminder: there is no Vespers on August 1. I will not be returning until that evening.

Work Party on Saturday August 8 beginning at noon.

Prayer for the New School Year will be after Liturgy on August 30.

Sunday school begins on Sunday, September 13

Jon Fiscus and Coleen Danaher will be wed on Sunday, September, 6

Mark your calendars! Bishop Basil will be with us at St. John's on Friday, October 16 at 7 pm for Vespers! An hors d'oeuvres and dessert potluck will follow.

A Different Bible Study every Tuesday at 7 pm. with Susan Arnold. The group is discussing the book "On the Apostolic Preaching" by St. Irenaeus of Lyons.

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.

An Orthodox point of view

by Prof. S. S. Verhovskoy

The nature of the Church and of its unity.

2. The church and history.

The heavenly or triumphant church evidently no longer exists in the history of this world, but it is undeniable that the church on earth exists in history. Nevertheless, we cannot agree that all that is in history is completely submitted to it, and is consequently submitted to time and changeability. God Himself is present, acting, and revealed in history, but He is above time, independent of it, and unchangeable. Even the human and especially the Christians, spiritual life, our knowledge, ideals, ethical principles, and our final goals, are founded in the Divine, that is, in the eternal, and elevate us above the moving current of history. The Incarnation, the life, the work, and preaching of Christ have an eternal meaning for all men of all ages. All that is essential in the Church does not change in history and in time. The life and message of the Apostolic Church are as living and as actual now as they were 20 centuries ago. Our identity with the Apostolic Church is a necessary condition for being the true Church. We are the "wandering people" because "we seek the city to come" because "God has provided some better thing for us." Those who "mind earthly things." Will be destroyed: "for our conversation is in heaven." (Phil 3:19 – 20)

If the Holy Spirit is God, He is timeless and He always announces to us the same Divine Truth although He manifests himself to us in time.

We believe that salvation, redemption, righteousness, sin, the Cross, must have the same meaning for us that they have in the New Testament and, therefore, it would be wrong for us to reinterpret them. The duty of the Church is to explain again the great ideas of Christianity to each generation. But not to change the meaning of the Divine message. We agreed that an improvement in the life of the world can be called its "renewal" but when God said: "behold, I make all things new." ("The first heaven and the first earth were passed away", "and there was found no place for them." (Rev. 20:11; 21:1, 5) – – that is, this our world and its history vanished and God totally re-created the whole universe. We must not identify the limited and temporary improvements which we can achieve in history with the promise of God to transform the whole creation from the state of corruption and death into such an infinite perfection that God Himself will be "all in all". (I Cor. 15:28)

The pamphlet, "An Orthodox Point of View", subtitled, "On Some of the Problems of Today's World" was written in May of 1968 to help clarify some ideas for the Orthodox participants at the World Council of Churches Assembly that year and was a direct response to several ideas presented in the working documents for the Assembly. I will be presenting the several parts of the document over the next few months.

For those not familiar with Professor Sergei Sergeievitch Verhovskoy, he was a graduate of the Theological Institute of St. Sergius in Paris (along with Fr. Alexander Schmemmann and Fr. John Meyendorff) and was Professor of Dogmatics at St. Vladimir's Seminary in New York. (He was also both my and Bishop Basil's professor of Dogmatics)

NOTE: All references in the original text to specific sections of the draft working documents have been removed since most people have no access to them, nor are they needed to understand Prof. Verhovskoy's points.

For those interested in a much more extensive development of Prof. Verhovskoy's points, I would recommend reading "Orthodoxy; The Cosmos Transfigured" by Paul Evdokimov (Published by 8th Day Press). BUT, I warn you that it is not an easy read. (And keep in mind who's telling you this...) :-)

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**

August

| | | |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 08/07 | Birthday | Joyce Mikita |
| 08/13 | Birthday | Joshua Fox |
| 08/13 | Birthday | Denise Mikita |
| 08/14 | Birthday | Bert Waisanen |
| 08/19 | Anniversary | John & Seraphima Rahe |
| 08/22 | Anniversary | Josh & Miriam Fox |
| 08/28 | Anniversary | Sid & Tim Kurtz |
| 08/31 | Namesday | Sidney Gray-Kurtz |

September

| | | |
|-------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 09/01 | Namesday | Joshua Fox |
| 09/03 | Anniversary | Fr. Seraphim & Masha Gisetti |
| 09/04 | Anniversary | Jonathan & Larissa Spencer |
| 09/07 | Birthday | Sidney Gray-Kurtz |
| 09/09 | Namesday | Anna Gisetti |
| 09/09 | Namesday | Miriam Fox |
| 09/09 | Namesday | Kara Yakubik |
| 09/10 | Birthday | Lisa DeLeo |
| 09/13 | Ordination | Dcn Michael Tarris |
| 09/24 | Birthday | Daniel Rahe |
| 09/25 | Birthday | Jaime Rall |
| 09/30 | Birthday | Carolyn Baldwin |

PROSPHORA Baking Schedule

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

August

| | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 2 | Open |
| 9 | Denise Mikita |
| 16 | John & Seraphim Rahe |
| 23 | Fr. Seraphim & Masha Gisetti |
| 30 | Jonathan & Lara Spencer |

September

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 6 | Anna Gisetti |
| 13 | Open |
| 20 | Open |
| 27 | Carolyn Baldwin |

We will always need prospora. 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

August

| | | | |
|----|-----|---------|---|
| 1 | Sat | 5:00 pm | NO Vespers <i>Dormition Fast begins</i> |
| 2 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour |
| 4 | Tue | 7:00 pm | A Different Bible Study |
| 6 | Thu | 6:30 pm | Liturgy Pot luck |
| 8 | Sat | noon | <u>Work Party</u> |
| | | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 9 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour |
| 11 | Tue | 7:00 pm | A Different Bible Study |
| 15 | Sat | 9:00 am | Liturgy |
| | | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 16 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour |
| 18 | Tue | 7:00 pm | A Different Bible Study |
| 22 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 23 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour |
| 25 | Tue | 7:00 pm | A Different Bible Study |
| 29 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 30 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy and prayer for the New School Year Coffee Hour |

September

| | | | |
|----|-----|---------|--|
| 5 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 6 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour |
| 8 | Tue | 6:30 pm | Liturgy Potluck |
| 12 | Sat | noon | <u>Work Party</u> |
| | | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 13 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour & Sunday School |
| 14 | Mon | 6:30 pm | Liturgy LENTEN Potluck |
| 15 | Tue | 7:00 pm | A Different Bible Study |
| 19 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 20 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour & Sunday School |
| 22 | Tue | 7:00 pm | A Different Bible Study |
| 26 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 27 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour & Sunday School |
| 29 | Tue | 7:00 pm | A Different Bible Study |
| 19 | Sat | 5:00 pm | Vespers |
| 20 | Sun | 9:00 am | Liturgy Coffee Hour & Sunday School |