



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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December 2015 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

May you have a blessed Nativity and a wonderful New Year.

As we move through this season of Advent, I hope that we can keep a perspective on the Fast as well as all the hubbub of the preparation for the Feast. It is not enough to say that "Christ is the reason for the season". We need to make Christ part of our preparation. For those who can take the Eve of the Nativity off from work, please try and come to the morning services as well as the evening services. These services of the Eve emphasize the entire story, not only of the birth of our Lord but the reason for it. We know that Christ became a human being for our salvation, but we often forget that that salvation involves us becoming divine. This is a direct quote from the service and the theology of the Church. Theosis is not just a Greek word - it is a description of the result of our entry into the Kingdom of God. Theosis means the process of becoming divine. Growing closer to God does not just mean we become "better people", theosis means that we become like God. While we can never become God, we can become something much greater than what we are now. This is our future. This is what we pray for. May this season inspire us to aspire to more than just "being good"!

With love, in Christ,
Fr. Seraphim

"The Mind of the Orthodox Church: How our theology and our ecclesiology has been expressed over the centuries." is continuing through December 15, every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Please feel free to bring your dinner and/or snacks to share during these sessions. Come whenever you can, even if you can't come for the entire time or every week. **Session 2 (The 5th - 15th Centuries)** will begin on January 27 after House Blessings are complete.

Prayer Circle: If you wish to be part of the Prayer Circle or would like more information, please contact Alexandra Gisetti at alexandra.gisetti@gmail.com.

Sunday School for our Young Ones – every Sunday during Coffee hour.

House Blessings will begin on January 6 and continue until everyone has been visited. The final schedule will be in the January newsletter.

Parents: Bringing smaller children to the Royal Hours on either Nativity or Theophany Eve may be boring for them as the services are monastic and not meant for the youngest ones. But the Vigil on Nativity Eve can be very involving for them so I highly recommend making it part of your Nativity Celebration as well as the Liturgy on Christmas morning. I know that many families have a tradition of opening presents in the morning and fasting for Communion is not part of that practice, but perhaps practices can change? However, please note that the Theophany Eve Vespertal Liturgy is a long one with the Blessing of Water. (I expect it will take 2+ hours.) Judge appropriately about bringing your small ones to this service.

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

12/03	Birthday	Margo Waisanen
12/06	Namesday	Nickolas Higgins
12/09	Namesday	Hannah Fox
12/11	Birthday	Micco Waisanen
12/13	Namesday	Jakob Higgins
12/13	Namesday	Jonathan Spencer
12/13	Namesday	Rebecca Ogden
12/13	Namesday	Susan Arnold
12/18	Birthday	Rebecca Ogden
12/20	Namesday	Dawn Dovey
12/21	Birthday	Jacque Gisetti
12/26	Birthday	Christina Veselak
12/28	Birthday	Caitlin Dovey
12/30	Anniversary	Dana & Nathan Berry

January

01/02	Namesday	Seraphima Rahe
01/06	Birthday	Donald Wallace
01/14	Namesday	Bethany Cheaqui
01/17	Birthday	Nathan Berry
01/17	Birthday	Larissa Spencer
01/19	Namesday	Mark Kleinman
01/22	Namesday	Timothy Spencer
01/29	Anniversary	Rebecca & Michael Ogden
01/29	Anniversary	Chris & Dawn Dovey

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.

December

6	Becca Higgins (for Nickolas & Jakob)
13	Susan Arnold
20	Dawn Dovey
27	Dana Berry

January

3	Don Wallace
10	Bethany Cheaqui
17	Larissa Spencer
24	Chris & Dawn Dovey
31	Masha Gisetti

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

December

5	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
6	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	St. Nicholas
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
9	Wed	6:30 pm	<u>The Mind of the Church</u>	
12	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
13	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday of the Forefathers
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
16	Wed	6:30 pm	<u>The Mind of the Church</u> (Last Session)	
19	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
20	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday of the Fathers
			Coffee Hour & NO Sunday School	
24	Thu	9:00 am	Royal hours	Nativity Eve
			Vesperal Liturgy	
		7:00 pm	Nativity vigil and Caroling	
25	Fri	9:00 am	Nativity Liturgy	Nativity of our Lord
26	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
27	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday after the Nativity
			Prayer for the New Year	
			Coffee Hour & NO Sunday School	

January

2	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
3	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday before the Theophany
			Coffee Hour & NO Sunday School	
5	Tue	9:00 am	Royal Hours	Theophany Eve
		6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy with the Blessing of Water	
6	Wed	6:30 pm	Liturgy	Theophany
9	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
10	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday after the Theophany
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
16	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
17	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
23	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
24	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	
27	Wed	6:30 pm	<u>The Mind of the Church</u>	
30	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
31	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee Hour & Sunday School	