



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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December 2017 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

This month we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This isn't just about His birthday. It's not about a infant being born into the world. It is about salvation coming to us. It is about the love of God for us.

Sometimes we hear about all the commercialization of this celebration. But, for the most part, gifts are a sign of love. We give gifts to those we treasure and to those whose happiness is important to us. The act of giving – whether to our children, parents, relatives, or friends or to the person on the street whose name we don't know and will never learn – is a treasure in and of itself.

But we need to remember that the act of giving must have a purpose behind it. The Magi brought gifts to the King of All as a prophecy of His death. St. Nicholas brought gifts to those in need, not just to make their faces shine or to put a smile on their faces, but to make their lives better. He took the time to learn their needs and met them. Scrooge may have been a fictional character, but the idea that when he changed, he changed not just himself but those around as well, is a most important lesson.

I hope, that as we go about our celebrations and our family gatherings, we will try to touch each person with the gift of hope and love and peace.

With love, in Christ,

Fr. Seraphim

Christmas is coming and so is St. Nicholas on December 3. We will also decorate the tree on that day. Several have asked for the tree to be up for longer than the week of Christmas, so we will trim the tree in conjunction with St. Nicholas' visit.

Because the Nativity is on a Monday, the Eve of the Nativity is not the very strict Fast Day it is in other years. Following Liturgy, we fast as usual, eating no animals or animal products (warm or cold blooded) but we do not fast from all food and drink until the first star appears for the sake of it being Sunday and receiving communion.

STILLNESS: A women's retreat: Quieting the Soul and Nurturing the Self During Advent Will be held at St. John's on Dec. 9 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. All women are invited. Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship with friends. The presenters are Masha and Dianna. The retreat will end with vespers at 5:00 pm

Christmas Caroling will follow the Nativity Vigil on Dec. 24 as usual. Please join us for the service and the celebration.

Our Sunday School will present a short program on Dec. 17 for your edification and pleasure!

Please see the schedule for House Blessings in January in this newsletter. If the scheduled time or day does not work for you, please let me know as soon as possible and I will reschedule.

We are continuing with the \$5-a-Month Club to support the priests in Uganda. Please join – just write a check for \$5 every month or \$60 for the year.

Prayer Circle: The Prayer Circle is a group of Parishioners who, at least once each week, spend some time asking God to care for and bless various individuals who are in need of His Mercy. If you wish to be part of the Prayer Circle or would like more information, please contact Alexandra Gisetti at alexandra.gisetti@gmail.com.

We have two Fund-raising opportunities – through Amazon Smile and through the Archdiocesan on-line Purchasing – please see the notice at the end of the newsletter for details of how you can participate.

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	Nickolas Higgins
12/09	Namesday	Hannah Fox
12/11	Birthday	Micco Waisanen
12/17	Namesday	Susan Arnold
12/17	Namesday	Jakob Higgins
12/17	Namesday	Jonathan Spencer
12/13	Namesday	Richard Hill
12/13	Namesday	Ricky Hill
12/17	Namesday	Daniel Rahe
12/20	Anniversary	Lee & Darya Goudzwaard
12/20	Namesday	Dawn Dovey
12/21	Birthday	Jacque Gisetti
12/26	Birthday	Christina Veselak
12/28	Birthday	Caitlin Dovey
12/30	Anniversary	Nathan & Dana Berry
12/31	Namesday	Joseph Conder

January

01/01	Namesday	Emma Dovey
01/02	Namesday	Seraphima Rahe
01/06	Birthday	Donald Wallace
01/10	Namesday	Robert Saieg
01/14	Namesday	Nina Beim
01/14	Namesday	Bethany Cheaqui
01/15	Birthday	Matthew Bourquin
01/17	Birthday	Nathan Berry
01/17	Birthday	Larissa Spencer
01/17	Birthday	Linda Saieg
01/21	Birthday	Kalee Zinng
01/24	Birthday	Andrei Tarashchuk
01/25	Anniversary	Richard & Joanna Hill
01/29	Anniversary	Chris & Dawn Dovey

PROSPHORA Baking

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 Proskomedia 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.

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.

Parish Responsibilities

	Prospora	Epistle	Communion help	Coffee Hour
December				
3	Margo Waisanen	Seraphima Rahe	Taisia & Alyssa	Mikita, D / Higgins
10	Miriam Fox	Chris Dovey	Pelagia & Kylee	Hill/Gisetti, M
17	Jonathan Spencer	Dana Berry	Kaitlin & Hanna	Baker/Dovey
24	Dana Berry	Andrei Gisetti	Taisia & Alyssa	Mikita, J&J / Gisetti, Al
31	Joe Conder	Susan Arnold	Pelagia & Kylee	Spencer / Perkins
January				
7	Robert Saieg	Joe Mikita	Kaitlin & Hanna	TBD
14	Bethany Cheaqui	Margo Waisanen	Taisia & Alyssa	TBD
21	Kalee Zingg	Chris Dovey	Pelagia & Kylee	TBD
28	Chris & Dawn Dovey	Dana Berry	Kaitlin & Hanna	TBD

2018 House Blessing Schedule

Name	Day	Date	Time	Name	Day	Date	Time
Armentrout, Tim & Dianna	Sun	7	3:00 PM	Goudzward, Lee & Darya	Sun	7	6:00 PM
Baker, Manda	Mon	8	7:00 PM	Higgins, Zach & Becca	Wed	10	5:30 PM
Baldwin, Carolyn	Mon	8	11:30 AM	Hill, Rick & Joann	Sat	6	3:00 PM
Beim, Alex & Ketino	Sun	7	4:30 PM	Kurtz, Tim & Sid; Gray, Vayann	Sat	6	1:30 PM
Berry, Nathan & Dana	Thu	11	5:30 PM	Mikita, Denise	Wed	10	4:00 PM
Castellano, Andrew & Anna	Tue	9	5:30 PM	Mikita, Joe & Joyce	Mon	8	10:00 AM
Cheaqui, Christopher & Bethany	Thu	11	4:00 PM	Perkins, Kelsey	Tue	9	4:00 PM
Conder, Joe	Sat	13	1:00 PM	Rahe, Dan	Tue	9	12:00 PM
Dovey, Chris & Dawn	Sun	7	7:30 PM	Rahe, John & Seraphima	Sat	6	7:30 PM
Drakulich, Mike & Dagmar	Tue	9	10:00 AM	Saieg, Robert & Linda	Tue	9	2:00 PM
Fiscus, Jon	Fri	12	11:30 AM	Spencer, Jonathan & Larissa	Sat	6	6:00 PM
Fiscus, Jon & Colleen	Sun	14	5:00 PM	Tarashchuk, Andrei & Brigitte	Fri	12	5:00 PM
Fox, Josh & Miriam	Sun	7	1:00 PM	Waisanen, Bert & Margo	Fri	12	6:00 PM
Gisetti, Alexandra	Tue	9	8:30 PM	Wallace, Don & Angela	Sat	6	12:00 PM
Gisetti, Andrei & Jacque	Fri	5	5:30 PM	Yakubik, Kara	Sat	6	4:30 PM
Gisetti, Anna	Fri	5	8:30 PM	Zingg, Russell & Kalee	Mon	8	5:30 PM

Schedule of Services and Events

December

2	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
3	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee hour & Visit of St. Nicholas with decorating of Tree	
6	Wed	6:30 pm	Catechetical Class – The Early Church	
9	Sat	noon–4:30 pm	Women's Retreat: STILLNESS	
		4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
10	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee hour & Sunday School	
			Parish Council	
13	Wed	6:30 pm	Last Catechetical Class – The Early Church	
16	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
17	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday of the Forefathers
			Coffee hour	
			Sunday School Program	
22	Fri	9:00 am	Royal Hours of the Nativity	
23	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
24	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Nativity Eve, Sunday of the Fathers
			Coffee hour	
		6:00 pm	Nativity Vigil	
			Christmas Carol Sing	
25	Mon	9:00 am	Liturgy	Nativity of our Lord
30	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
31	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday after the Nativity
			Coffee hour	

January

5	Fri	9:00 am	Royal hours	Eve of Theophany
			Vesperal Liturgy with Blessing of Water	
		7:00 pm	Vigil	
6	Sat	9:00 am	Liturgy	Theophany
			NO Vespers	
7	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	St. John the Baptist
			Coffee Hour and Sunday School	Sunday after Theophany
13	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
14	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Leave-taking of Theophany
			Coffee hour & Sunday School	
20	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
21	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee hour & Sunday School	
27	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
28	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee hour & Sunday School	

Amazon Smile Program

1. Instead of using www.amazon.com, use smile.amazon.com
2. Bookmark smile.amazon.com in all of your browsers
3. Search for St. John Chrysostom Church (Christian – Lakewood, CO)
4. Select it as your charity.
5. Always use smile.amazon.com when purchasing from Amazon. Everything will look the same and work the same as on www.amazon.com including Prime if you have it.

EXCEPT, St. John's will get a (small – 0.5%) donation of every purchase that you make.

THIS DOES NOT COST YOU ANY MORE.

That's it.

Thank you



St. John Chrysostom Rewards Program

Program Overview:

1. A digital savings and fundraising platform for our ministry.
2. The program creates an automatic monetary contribution to our ministry as a percentage of your online spending.
3. This program is endorsed by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

How Does It Work?

1. Shop at thousands of your favorite retailers, such as Target, Best Buy, Nordstrom, Home Depot, Kohl's, J. Crew, and more.
2. Save by taking advantage of discounts and deals including %-off discounts, \$-off discounts, and free shipping.
3. Support the parish, as a percentage of every purchase you make at participating retailers is contributed back to the ministry at no additional cost to you.

How Do You Participate:

1. Go to antiochian.org/rewardsprogram and register with your email address.
2. Remember to visit antiochian.org/rewardsprogram prior to making online purchases to enable a contribution to St. John's and to discover relevant savings offers for you. OR
3. Install the antiochian.org/rewardsprogram support button on your Chrome, Firefox, or Safari browser to automatically support the ministry every time you make a purchase—without having to visit the deal site first.