



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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February 2018 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

As we approach Great Lent, I hope that you will make time to attend Fr. John Behr's retreat, the last weekend in February. Fr. John is an excellent speaker and has much to teach us.

Every year, Great Lent poses a challenge to all of us: how shall we honor this time of preparation for the greatest celebration of all - our Lord's Resurrection? Shall we abstain from certain foods? – meat? Cheese and eggs? Fish? Processed foods?? Shall we abstain from certain activities? Movies? Plays? TV? Computer? Facebook? Instagram? Twitter? Shall we spend more time with the family, interacting, playing together? Shall we come to church more often? Or be more regular in our attendance, coming on time or even before the start of services just to sit and pray in church for a few minutes? Or provide an example to our children of love, patience, and faithfulness? Shall we pray at home more? Or read the Bible more regularly? Shall we spend less on ourselves to give more to the poor? Or all of the above? Or more than one of the above?

What shall we do with 7 weeks of our lives? Or even 2 or 3 of the 7?

Sometimes we focus so much on SEVVVEN WEEEEEEKSSSS that we forget that Lent is broken up into 7 different weeks – they don't all have to be the same. We can separate them and do one thing one week and something else the next! Focus on food one week and entertainment the next.

Obviously, it is most salutary if we can be consistent every week of Lent, but even keeping the first and last (Holy Week) and maybe the 4th week is better than nothing. And if we wish to rotate our efforts from one week to the next, that, too, is good.

The main focus is to be consistent with ourselves. We make a decision that “I am going to do this! This 'X'!” And then we fail to follow through. Let us be faithful with ourselves and do what say to ourselves. No one but God and you will know exactly what you choose, but choose we should. Fasting, in the end, is not about food, but it is about being faithful in our decisions and our follow through.

Have a blessed Lent!

With love, in Christ,
Fr. Seraphim

Please see my exposition about Honoraria (treby) after the Service Schedule!

Fr. John Behr will be with us at the end of the first week of Lent to give a Retreat on “Male and Female in Christ”. Cost is \$20 and coffee and lunch on Saturday is included. (Feb 23 & 24) See the flyer which is included in this mailing.

February 3 after Vespers. Family night: A night of games. Potluck dinner, games and fellowship for all ages.

There will be a gathering of all those interested in being part of our Parish's “Christian Ending” ministry on Saturday March 3 at church at noon to organize and prepare for this ministry to our community. Stepheny Antrebus from St. Luke's, Erie will guide is in this workshop.

Pysanky Workshop will be on Saturday March 17 from 1 pm at church. All are welcome – first timers and old timers... If you are a beginner, you can order a “beginner” kit from www.ukrainiangiftshop.com or Amazon (Kit #2: Standard Kit w/delrin)

The Lenten Discussions after Pre-Sanctified will be on the topic of “Christ, The Conqueror of Hell” There is a book by that name by Metropolitan (then Archbishop) Hilarion. I will be loosely following it so if you are interested, please buy a copy from our bookstore.

The Inquirer's Class “What is Orthodoxy” will continue every Saturday from 4 to 4:50 pm

During the the First Week of Great Lent, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, we will serve Compline with the reading of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete.

Presanctified Liturgy will be served every Wednesday in Great Lent followed by a Lenten Potluck and Discussion.

Every Friday on the first 5 weeks of Great Lent, we will have the “Medaia” service. This is a Small Compline during which we read the Akathist to the Theotokos. It takes about 30 minutes on the first 4 weeks on great Lent and a little over an hour on the 5th week, when we do the entire Akathist.

Note that Great Lent ends on the Friday of the 6th Week. Then comes Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday and Holy Week. (This does not mean that the Fast ends because the Great Lent is over....)

On Lazarus Saturday, March 31, we will have our Annual Teaching Liturgy at 9 am, followed by the making of Palm Crosses and general Cleaning for Pascha! Please come!

March 3 Family Night will be a movie night. One movie for the adults, another for the kids.

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 Dianna Vagianos-Armentrout at diannavagianos@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

February

02/03	Birthday	Dana Berry
02/03	Birthday	Masha Gisetti
02/05	Birthday	Sandro Beim
02/06	Namesday	Thea Goudzwaard
02/11	Birthday	Christopher Cheaqui
02/17	Anniversary	Tim & Dianna Armentrout
02/18	Ordination	Fr. Seraphim Gisetti (to the diaconate)
02/21	Birthday	Ken Fredricksen
02/22	Birthday	Manda Baker
02/23	Anniversary	Don & Angela Wallace
02/26	Birthday	Gabriel Armentrout

March

03/01 Birthday Colleen Fiscus
 03/03 Birthday Pelagia Tarashchuk
 03/04 Namesday Jaime Rall
 03/15 Birthday Nickolas Higgins
 03/19 Birthday Thea Goudzwaard
 03/19 Birthday Joseph Mikita
 03/19 Birthday John Rahe
 03/19 Namesday Daria Goudzwaard
 03/21 Birthday Jonathan Spencer
 03/26 Namesday Larissa Spencer
 03/26 Namesday Gabriel Armentrout
 03/27 Namesday Linda Saieg

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 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.

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
February				
4	Alex Beim (for Sandro)	Jonathan Spencer	Taisia & Alyssa	Spencer, Zingg, Perkins
11	Christopher Cheaqui	Seraphima Rahe	Pelagia & Kylee	Hill, Cheaqui, D. Mikita
18	Fr. Seraphim	Andrei Gisetti	Kaitlin & Hanna	Saieg, M. Gisetti, Baldwin
25	Diana Armentrout (for Gabriel)	Susan Arnold	Taisia & Alyssa	Armentrout, Taraschuk, Conder
March				
4	Open	Denise Mikita	Pelagia & Kylee	Beim, Dovey, Baker
11	Becca Higgins	Miriam Fox	Kaitlin & Hanna	J&J Mikita, Castellano, Anna Gisetti
18	Joe Mikita	Kara Yakubik	Taisia & Alyssa	Berry, Goudzward, Al. Gisetti
25	Linda Saieg	Joanne Hill	Pelagia & Kylee	Fox, Higgins, Roberts

Parish Cleaning:

February 3,4 Dovey
 March 3, 4 Fox

Schedule of Services and Events

February

2	Fri	6:30 pm	Liturgy Festal Potluck	Meeting of our Lord
3	Sat	noon 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	A Christian Ending Meeting What is Orthodoxy? An introduction. Vespers	
			Family Night: Game Night	
4	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
10	Sat	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction. Vespers	
11	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)
17	Sat	noon 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Pysanky Workshop What is Orthodoxy? An introduction. Vespers	
18	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & NO Sunday School Vespers of Forgiveness	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)
19	Mon		<u>Great Lent Begins</u>	
		7:00 pm	Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	
20	Tue	7:00 pm	Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	
21	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck and Discussion	
22	Thu	7:00 pm	Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	
23	Fri	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Medaia Opening Presentation	Lenten Retreat with Fr. John Behr
24	Sat	8:00 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm	Liturgy Lenten Retreat with Fr. John Behr Vespers	
25	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	1st Sunday of Lent (Orthodoxy)
		5:00 pm	Pan Orthodox Vespers Assumption Cathedral	
28	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck and Discussion	

March

2	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia	
3	Sat	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction. Vespers	
			Family Night: Movie Night	
4	Sun	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School Pan Orthodox Vespers Transfiguration Cathedral	2nd Sunday of Lent (St. Gregory Palamas)
7	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Potluck and Discussion	
9	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia	
10	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	

11	Sun	5:00 pm 9:00 am	Vespers Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	3rd Sunday of Lent (Cross)
14	Wed	5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pan Orthodox Vespers St. Dimitrie the New Church (Fredrick, CO) Presanctified Liturgy Potluck and Discussion	
16	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia	
17	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
18	Sun	5:00 pm 9:00 am	Vespers Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	4th Sunday of Lent (St. John of the Ladder)
21	Wed	5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pan Orthodox Vespers St. Elias Church (Arvada, CO) Presanctified Liturgy Potluck (No Discussion) Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	
23	Fri	7:00 pm	Akathist to the Theotokos	
24	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
25	Sun	5:00 pm 9:00 am	Vespers Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	5th Sunday of Lent & Annunciation (St. Mary of Egypt)
28	Wed	5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pan Orthodox Vespers St. Spyridon Church (Loveland, CO) Presanctified Liturgy Potluck and Last Lenten Discussion	
31	Sat	9:00 am	Teaching Liturgy	Lazarus Saturday

On Honoraria and the Priest

One question that comes up rather regularly is: should I give the priest an honorarium when he visits or not? The answer is not simple and really depends – depends on the parish, depends on the family/individual and depends on the services performed by the priest.

Very few churches currently are large enough to be able to afford a true full time staff of both higher and lower clergy. But, this discussion includes all types of clergy even when the word used is “priest”.

Background

Whether in Greece, in Russia, in the Middle East or the Balkans, the practice of giving honoraria to clergy who perform a service for an individual or family is firmly established. By clergy, I mean priest, deacon, bishop, chanter, and singers – what are referred to in church manuals as higher and lower clergy.

Higher clergy are ordained clergy: deacons, priests, and bishops. Lower clergy are tonsured clergy: subdeacons, readers, chanters, servers, and doorkeepers. In the last millennium, the practice of performing the functions of lower clergy without the actual tonsure became commonplace. This situation has continued to the present. In some Orthodox Churches (Greek and Antiochian in particular), lower clergy began to fulfill some of the functions of higher clergy, particularly deacons!

In general, the entire custom of honoraria comes from times when clergy did not receive salaries from the parish and clergy income depended on the direct generosity of parishioners and/or other faithful. In most Orthodox countries clergy were, officially or unofficially, divided into three groups: (1) those who received a full salary from the Government or the Church (Patriarchate, Archdiocese, Diocese, or Parish), (2) those who received a minimal salary, and (3) those who received no salary.

Clergy in Category 1 were all bishops (beginning in apostolic times), and most priests, deacons, chanters and choir directors on large/important parishes or individuals holding senior positions in Church Administration. Clergy in category 2 were the majority of parish priests as well as other clergy on larger (city) parishes, whose exact salary usually depended on the largesse of the local parish or bishop. Clergy in category 3 were priests not assigned to parishes (attached to shrines, hospitals, or cemeteries) or assigned to small parishes or were lower clergy on medium or small parishes.

For those in category 3, their entire income was comprised of honoraria and they would not have survived without the generosity of those who sought their services. In category 2, the priest would usually be destitute without honoraria, so there was often competition between category 2 and category 3 for honoraria. While priests in the 1st category did not financially need honoraria, they did not turn it down either; not from greediness, necessarily, because if they were to turn down honoraria, many people would be confused and their actions could adversely impact those clergy who required honoraria to survive.

Thus, for centuries, the majority of clergy have depended on honoraria for all of their services – to the point where people got the idea that they were “hiring” the priest for doing services, that the priest did not serve God and the Church, but was a hireling, available to the first one to pay money. In the first three quarters of the 20th century, a priest might get half his annual income during house blessings in January and Thomas Sunday (Russians) or Memorial Tuesday (Greeks). The rest of the year was slim living except when there was a Baptism or Wedding or Funeral.

Most churches in North America, as well as many churches throughout the traditional Orthodox lands, are trying to fund the church and the priest appropriately. By this I mean to give him a salary with which he can support his family. A regular salary eliminates the roller coaster effect of honoraria coming in “bunches”, creating a dependable income for clergy.

However, once the priest is funded, most churches depend on volunteers for all the rest of the church staffing needs. Even when some funds are available, remuneration is usually minimal and more gas reimbursement rather than salary. Churches fund full time youth coordinators before full time deacons or chanters or choir directors.

So who should get an honorarium and when and how much?

This is a very difficult question because there is no “right” answer. It all depends.

But here are some suggestions:

If you tithe¹ to support your parish AND your parish gives your priest a full salary as remuneration then you should give the parish priest an honorarium only if you are going to be spending money on hiring other people for the event. In other words, if you are spending money on caterers and a band for a wedding, then you should gift the priest as well; if you're doing it all yourself, then no, an honorarium is not required.

The same holds true for all other clergy. If you are spending money and hiring people, then all who are asked to function during the service should be recognized with a small gift.

Please note a distinction here: “All who are ASKED to function during the service should be recognized with a gift”. In many parishes the priest, the choir, the deacons, and the chanters are all friends who are participating as volunteers rather than being specially invited for their talents/position. In these cases no honoraria are needed, and, indeed, offering an honorarium in such a situation may be cause for hurt feelings.

If you do not tithe, and give minimally – whether you pay “dues” or make an offering when you feel like it or simply give a tithe of a tithe (1% of income) – then it is customary to gift the clergy every time they do something for you as an individual or family outside of scheduled church services.

There is one more situation when it is customary to give an honorarium: when you invite clergy who are not from your parish (any clergy – higher or lower - priest or bishop or singers, etc.) to participate in a wedding or funeral or baptism or other celebration. As above, when you ASK someone to function during a special service, and that person is not one you normally support, then an honorarium is appropriate.

So how much is an appropriate honorarium?

Again, it all depends.

Honoraria should cover the cost of all travel expenses plus something. The “plus something” depends on you and the service. Weddings are more “plus” than house blessings, etc. But there is never a minimum amount. In the past I would always give a range, and those ranges always began with \$0.

A personal comment

At St. John Chrysostom's parish, my attitude is that we tithe. The parish provides all the necessities. Honoraria are not part of our relationship. I will not turn one down when you offer one to me but I hope that no one ever feels that it is necessary to give one at any time or for any reason. We are friends and you are my joy to serve. May it always be so.

¹ A tithe is normally 10% of your income but it can be figured in many different ways – 10% of gross or net or take home or disposable, etc. Ideally, it is supposed to be 10% of gross income but the individual who actually gives that amount is vanishingly rare.

Amazon Smile Program

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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.

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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.