



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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March 2018 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

This newsletter is very late. I am sorry to be tardy. Things got away from me following the retreat with Fr. John Behr.

As I talk with many of you, it seems that this Lent is particularly difficult. I know that it is a struggle for me this year. Please be patient with yourselves and with each other. We're only two weeks into Lent as yet, but I hear that it is difficult to focus on Lent because it is so early. Everything does seem rushed. Yet Lent is the same length every year. Perhaps it is not Lent but ourselves who are rushed, focused on this life rather than the next. Perhaps what we need to do is to push back and make time for ourselves – our prayer life and our spiritual life. It is not easy, but oh, so necessary. Please consider taking 15 minutes a day, perhaps during lunch, to just sit and listen to your soul. Wondrous things can happen then.

With love, in Christ,
Fr. Seraphim

Time Change! Spring forward, We lose an hour this Sunday, March 11!!!

There will be a gathering of those interested in being part of our Parish's "Christian Ending" ministry on Saturday March 10 at church at 1 pm to organize and prepare for this ministry to our community. Stepheny Antrebus from St. Luke's, Erie will guide us 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)

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

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

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.

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!

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week, it is the custom after the PreSanctified Liturgy, Liturgy, and Vespers to have a small Lenten meal in the Fellowship Hall while we await the start of the 7 pm services. The meals are not potluck but we either bring something to eat or order something Lenten and humble from a nearby place. Everyone is welcome to join in.

On Sunday, April 22, we will have our annual Paschal Vespers and BBQ Picnic. All of the area clergy and parishioners are invited. Sign-up sheets and further information will be available in April.

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

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

April

04/01	Birthday	Alexandra Gisetti
04/01	Namesday	Masha Gisetti
04/06	Birthday	Dagmar Drakulich
04/23	Namesday	Alexandra Gisetti
04/23	Namesday	Alexandra Zinng (Lexy)
04/24	Birthday	Alexandra Zinng (Lexy)
04/30	Namesday	Donald Wallace

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.

Because we have grown, the prosporas need to be bigger, please see the recipe on the next page of the newsletter for the new proportions....

Parish Responsibilities

	Prospora	Epistle	Communion help	Coffee Hour
March				
4	Open	Denise Mikita	Pelagia & Kylee	Beim, Dovey, Baker
11	Becca Higgins	Miriam Fox	Caitlin & Hannah	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
April				
1	Masha Gisetti	Jonathan Spencer	Caitlin & Hannah	<u>Potluck</u>
8	Parish	Andrei Gisetti	Taisia & Caitlin	<u>Festal Meal</u>
15	Open	Joe Mikita	Taisia & Alyssa	J&J Mikita, M. Gisetti, Arnold
22	Alexandra Gisetti	Ricky Hill	Pelagia & Kylee	Beim, Higgins, Perkins
29	Anna Gisetti	Taisia Taraschuk	Caitlin & Hannah	Armentrout, Goudzward, D. Mikita

Parish Cleaning:

March 3, 4

Fox

April

ALL OF US (Cleaning for Pascha)

Prospora Instructions

2 tsp yeast (Fleischmann's Dry Yeast) - roughly 1 envelope
1 pinch salt (iodized is what I use)
2 c water
~1.5 lb flour (I use Hungarian High Altitude Unbleached,
I used to use Gold Medal Bleached or store brand Unbleached -
DO NOT use Whole Wheat)

Preheat oven to 350 (some 325, some 375)

Needed:

Mixing bowl

Mixing spoon

Liquid Measuring cup

Cookie sheet

1½" - 3" craft/leather needle (NOT Knitting needle)

– you can use a smaller one if that is all you have or a pin – but sterilize first

1 large linen/cotton towel (flour bag type)

Mix water and yeast and 1 cup flour, mix, cover (with a linen towel) and let stand until it bubbles (or separates – sometimes it does one, sometimes the other), then add the pinch of salt and start adding flour, mixing thoroughly until “rubbery” to the touch and does not stick to your fingers.

Roll out, fold up, roll out, fold up, roll out. Form into a loaf about 10” across (diameter), put on cookie sheet (flour the cookie sheet – do not oil it or spray pam or any other oil on it), stamp with prospora seal (don't be afraid to flatten it in the process, and prick the 4 corners of the main seal (in the center) with the needle (does not have to go all the way to the bottom and hit the cookie sheet) as well as the very center of the seal (this lessens the chance of an air bubble under the seal)

Put into oven for ~45 minutes.

(do 20 minutes on top rack and 20+ minutes on the bottom rack)

(40 - 45 min depending on the size of the loaf and efficiency of the oven)

Take out when it starts to brown (light brown), wrap in the linen towel and let it cool in the towel.

Put in plastic bag (1 gal size works well) and bring to church. You can freeze it at home if it is baked several days early – but don't let it defrost on the way to church unless it is the day before it is going to be used.

If you have more dough than needed for the prospora, bake yourself a loaf and slather it with butter and enjoy

Schedule of Services and Events

March

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.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
11	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School Parish Council Meeting	3rd Sunday of Lent (Cross)
		5:00 pm	Pan Orthodox Vespers St. Dimitrie the New Church (Fredrick, CO)	
14	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Potluck and Discussion	
16	Fri	7:00 pm	Medaia	
17	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
18	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	4th Sunday of Lent (St. John of the Ladder)
		5:00 pm	Pan Orthodox Vespers St. Elias Church (Arvada, CO)	
21	Wed	6:30 pm	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.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
25	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	5th Sunday of Lent & Annunciation (St. Mary of Egypt)
		5:00 pm	Pan Orthodox Vespers St. Spyridon Church (Loveland, CO)	
28	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy Potluck and Last Lenten Discussion	
31	Sat	9:00 am	Teaching Liturgy Potluck Lunch Cleaning for Pascha & making of Palm Crosses	Lazarus Saturday
		5:00 pm	Vespers with blessing of palms and pussywillows	

April

1	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy with Children's Palm Procession Coffee Hour NO Sunday School	Palm Sunday
2	Mon	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Matins	Holy Monday
3	Tue	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Matins	Holy Tuesday
4	Wed	5:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy	Holy Wednesday
		7:00 pm	Matins of Holy Thursday and Unction Service	
5	Thu	4:00 pm	Vesperal Liturgy of the Last Supper	Holy Thursday
		7:00 pm	Matins Of Holy Friday (12 Gospels)	
6	Fri	9:00 am	Royal Hours	Holy Friday
		3:00 pm	Vespers of the Burial	
		7:00 pm	Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations)	
7	Sat	9:15 am	Vesperal Liturgy – The Descent to Hades	Holy Saturday
		11:30 pm	Nocturne	
		Midnight	Paschal Procession	

8	Sun		Paschal Matins Paschal Liturgy Paschal Breakfast	PASCHA
		1:00 pm	Agape Vespers	
9	Mon	9:00 am	Paschal Liturgy Open house at the Gisetti's	Bright Monday
14	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
15	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School Parish Council Meeting	Thomas Sunday
21	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
22	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	Myrrhbearers Sunday
		5:00 pm	Vespers BBQ Picnic	
28	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy? An introduction.	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
29	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Sunday School	Sunday of the Paralytic

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.