



St. John Chrysostom Church

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

<http://www.stjohngoldenco.org/>

9300 W. Dartmouth Pl.

Lakewood, CO 80227

Church Phone: (720) 460-1578

Church email: frs@stjohngoldenco.org

Fr. Seraphim Gisetti, Pastor

Phone: 720.938.1302

email: vrevsg@comcast.net

December 2018 SJCC News

My Joy in the Lord,

As we approach the Nativity of our Lord, sometimes the blaring Christmas carols can become irritating. Even more irritating can be the disappearance of Christmas decorations and Christmas items in the days before Christmas. Last year I walked into a store on December 22nd only to see mostly Valentine's day merchandise.

The 12 days of Christmas are only remembered in one song and it has nothing about the Nativity of our Lord. But WE remember. Our Fast becomes more strict from Dec. 20 through Dec. 24. Especially this year, with Nativity Eve on a weekday, we can follow that most ancient fast which eats nothing on Dec. 24 before the first star appears (except for some prosthora at the end of liturgy in the morning).

I know that in this modern world, where so many of us have members of our family who are not Orthodox and have no idea that the Nativity Eve should be a fast day, much less that anyone should fast, period, it is difficult, if not impossible, to keep this fast without hurting some loved one's feelings. I am not asking you to do so. There are other ways to keep a fast than eating only certain foods. Find something that you can do. Turn off the TV. Turn off the computer. Turn off the game box. Turn off the radio. Find a way to connect to the people around you.

And even when you go to celebrations during the Fast, restrain yourself. You don't have to "pig out" just because it's delicious. Enjoy the food; enjoy the relationship; enjoy the time spent with those close to you and remember the words of St. Paul, "All things are lawful for me"—but not everything is beneficial. 'All things are lawful for me'—but I will not be controlled by anything" (1 Cor. 6:12)

May we all have a blessed Nativity.

With love, in Christ,

Fr. Seraphim

On December 24, at 7 pm, we will have the vigil for the Feast of the Nativity. This service is almost unique in the liturgical life of the Church. It happens only twice – on Christmas Eve and on Theophany Eve. Since it is a Monday night, we will begin at 6 pm. The service takes about an hour and a half with an artoklasia (blessing of bread) during the Compline and distribution of the blessed bread and wine during Matins (we do shorten the Vigil a lot) and then we sing Christmas Carols. Please think about coming to one of the most beautiful services of the year and raising your voices in praise of Christ.

Beginning January 5 we will be praying the Akathist to St. John Chrysostom on the 1st Saturday of each month at 4 pm. This prayer is for our Patron Saint to help us grow – both in numbers and in Spirit. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The akathist depends on everyone in church helping to sing the responses!

Beginning January 26 we will be praying the Akathist to the Theotokos – the Inexhaustible Cup on the last Saturday of every month (except April of 2019) at 4 pm. This is a special akathist for the healing of those who suffer from all illnesses but especially from addictions.

I hope to expand our akathist schedule to encompass two/three other akathists – to St. Rafael of Brooklyn and to Christ the Good Shepherd (which was the first icon gifted to our mission) and to the Theotokos, our Lady of Iveron. This will depend on how much interest is shown.

When you receive this newsletter, you will also receive, as separate attachments, all of the individual schedules: Epistle readers, Coffee hour families, communion servers, and prosphora and commemoration makers. Please read them carefully.

The House blessing schedule will be provided shortly before the end of December. Please read it carefully. If the day and/or time assigned is not good for you, please let me know and I will reschedule you. It is not a problem and happens every year. I expect and welcome changes. I do schedule at least an hour with you (the blessing takes 5 minutes) so that I have time to sit and talk with you. I welcome any questions or comments

Anyone who would like to read the Epistle during Liturgy on Sunday, please see me (Fr. Seraphim) about getting on the schedule. We can use some more women and men. The more people who know how to read the epistle, the better the parish will be.

At the end of January we will start a new Wednesday evening Bible Study – on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Everyone is welcome.

During Great Lent we will be discussing Dr. Peter Bouteneff's new book: "How to be a Sinner". You can get from our bookstore after the first of the year.

Fr. Joseph Honeycutt will be our speaker for the Pre-Lenten Retreat on Feb. 22 and 23. The topic will be: Fire from Ashes: The Reality of Perpetual Conversion. The retreat begins on Friday night, Feb 22, at 7 pm and will continue Saturday, Feb 23, from 10 am to 4 pm.

We have one Saturday evening a month dedicated to getting together and having some family fun! Here is the schedule for the next few months:

Jan 12th: Game Night – bring your favorite games to play

Feb. 9th: Valentine's Day Celebration Potluck – share some of your loved ones favorite foods

Mar 2nd: Lenten Recipe Swap – Prepare for Great Lent by getting new recipes!

NO Family night in April during Lent!

A comment about Coffee hour serving AND POTLUCKS (whether on Sunday or a weeknight):

It is not enough to just bring some food for Coffee hour when it is your turn or when it is a potluck, you need to stay and help clean up afterwards. There is a significant amount of cleaning that needs to be done whenever we eat at church – the list is posted in the kitchen. When you leave the facility without cleaning up, someone else (read – usually the priest or his family) gets to do it for you. Do you really think that's fair? The church is our paroikia – our parish, our second home. We all need to be responsible to keep it in a state where we are happy to invite new guests to visit. I have tried to assign at least three people for each coffee hour every Sunday when there is no potluck. Three people should be able to get through the list in under 30 minutes. If everyone takes a hand after a potluck, it should take less than 15 minutes. We can do it – just be mindful that this is our second home but it is God's house and we need (we NEED) to keep it clean for Him, not just for ourselves. Thank you.

Adding our calendar to your computer or phone. Please follow the instructions at stjohngoldenco@gmail.com Please note that you need to delete it and re-add it periodically. It does not update properly on its own

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. 2019 will be a new year and new opportunities to help these priests which now only get a little over \$30 a month. Please help.

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 FOUR 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. Also we have Safeway and King Soopers cards. Each of these two give us more than the first two combined. If you have not gotten either, please see Jacque Gisetti. They come pre-loaded with \$5 for you to spend. After that, you have to reload them before you can use them.

Parish Responsibilities

Parish Cleaning:

December 1,2 Waisanen

January 5,6 Beim

	Commemorations	Epistle	Communion help	Coffee Hour
December				
2	M Waisanen	Dana Berry	Caitlin & Hannah	<u>Lenten Potluck</u> (St. Nicholas)
9	Fox	Chris Dovey	Taisia & Alyssa	Armentrout, Dovey, Anna Gisetti
16	J Spencer	Joanna Hill	Pelagia & Kylee	Spencer, Waisanen
23	D. Margugito	Jonathan Spencer	Caitlin & Hannah	Fox, M. Gisetti, D. Mikita
30	K Hotton	Margo Waisanen	Taisia & Alyssa	Saieg, Cheaqui, Perkins
January				
6	Bob Saieg	Andrei Gisetti	Pelagia & Kylee	<u>POTLUCK</u>
13	Bethany Cheaqui	Dana Berry	Caitlin & Hannah	Gisetti, Anna; Redden
20	Gene & Joanna Hill	Chris Dovey	Taisia & Alyssa	Rendoff; Yakubik
27	Chris & Dawn Dovey	Seraphima Rahe	Pelagia & Kylee	Rahe, J&S; Copple

Parishioner Celebrations

**NOTE: If you don't see your day listed OR see your celebration listed on the wrong day
PLEASE let Fr. Seraphim know – as soon as possible**

December

12/01	Birthday	Linda Hotton
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
12/13	Namesday	Gene Hill
12/13	Namesday	Ricky Hill
12/16	Namesday	Jakob Higgins
12/16	Namesday	Jonathan Spencer
12/17	Namesday	Daniel Rahe
12/20	Anniversary	Lee & Darya Goudzwaard
12/20	Namesday	Dawn Dovey
12/21	Birthday	Jacque Gisetti
12/22	Namesday	Deanna Margugito
12/27	Namesday	Stephen Peyton
12/28	Birthday	Caitlin Dovey
12/30	Anniversary	Nathan & Dana Berry
12/30	Namesday	Joseph Conder
12/30	Namesday	Kevin Hotton
12/30	Namesday	Rory Neill

January

01/01	Namesday	Emma Dovey
01/02	Namesday	Seraphima Rahe
01/02	Namesday	Linda Hotton
01/06	Birthday	Donald Wallace
01/10	Namesday	Robert Saieg
01/14	Birthday	Katherine Knudtsen
01/14	Namesday	Nina Beim
01/14	Namesday	Bethany Cheaqui
01/17	Birthday	Nathan Berry
01/17	Birthday	Larissa Spencer
01/17	Birthday	Linda Saieg
01/21	Birthday	Kalee Zinng
01/22	Namesday	Rick (Timothy) Cople
01/24	Birthday	Andrei Tarashchuk
01/25	Anniversary	Gene & Joanna Hill
01/29	Anniversary	Chris & Dawn Dovey

Schedule of Services and Events

December

8	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy?
		5:00 pm	Vespers

9	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy Coffee hour & Cookie Exchange!	
		11:00 am	Sunday School Parish Council Meeting	
12	Wed	7:00 pm	Adult Discussion	
15	Sat	4:00 pm	What is Orthodoxy?	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
16	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday of the Forefathers
			Coffee hour	
		11:00 am	Last Sunday School before Christmas break	
19	Wed	7:00 pm	LAST Adult Discussion until February	
22	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
23	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Sunday of the Fathers
			Coffee hour	
24	Mon	9:00 am	Royal hours	Nativity Eve
			Vesperal Liturgy	
		6:00 pm	Nativity Vigil Christmas Carols	
25	Tue	9:00 am	Liturgy	Nativity of our Lord
29	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
30	Sun	8:00 am	<u>Matins</u>	
		9:00 am	Liturgy	Joseph, David and James
			Prayer for the New Year	
			Coffee hour	

January

4	Fri	9:00 am	Royal Hours for Theophany	
5	Sat	4:00 pm	Akathist to St. John Chrysostom	
		5:00 pm	Vigil with Blessing of Water	Theophany Eve
6	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	Theophany
			Coffee hour	
12	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
			Family Game Night	
13	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee hour	
		11:00 am	Sunday School	
19	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
20	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee hour	
		11:00 am	Sunday School	
23	Wed	7:00 pm	Bible Study – Epistle to the Romans	
26	Sat	4:00 pm	Akathist to the Theotokos – the Inexhaustible Cup	
		5:00 pm	Vespers	
27	Sun	8:00 am	<u>Matins</u>	
		9:00 am	Liturgy	
			Coffee hour	
		11:00 am	Sunday School	
30	Wed	7:00 pm	Bible Study – Epistle to the Romans	

2018 – 2019 Festal Weekday Services

December

24	Monday	9:00 am	Royal Hours Vespereal Liturgy	Nativity Eve
		6:00 pm	Nativity Vigil and Carols	
25	Tuesday	9:00 am	Liturgy	Nativity of our Lord

2019

January

4	Friday	9:00 am	Royal hours	Theophany preparation
Theophany falls on Sunday, January 6				

February

Meeting of our Lord falls on Saturday, February 2

March

25	Monday	6:30 pm	Vespereal Liturgy	Annunciation to the Theotokos
----	--------	---------	-------------------	-------------------------------

June

6	Thursday	6:30 pm	Liturgy	Ascension of our Lord
SS Peter & Paul fall on Saturday, June 29				

August

6	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Liturgy	Transfiguration of our Lord
15	Thursday	6:30 pm	Liturgy	Dormition of the Theotokos

September

Nativity of the Theotokos falls on Sunday, September 8
Elevation of the Cross falls on Saturday, September 14

November

13	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Liturgy	St. John Chrysostom – Patronal Feast
21	Thursday	6:30 pm	Liturgy	Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos
28	Thursday	9:00 am	Liturgy	Thanksgiving (Native American Saints)

December

24	Tuesday	9:00 am	Royal Hours Vespereal Liturgy	Nativity Eve
		6:00 pm	Nativity Vigil and Carols	
25	Wednesday	9:00 am	Liturgy	Nativity of our Lord

2019 Lenten & Paschal Schedule

March 1st Week of Lent

10	Sunday	Forgiveness Vespers	after Coffee hour
11	Monday	Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	7:00 pm
12	Tuesday	Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	7:00 pm
13	Wednesday	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck and Discussion	6:30 pm
14	Thursday	Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	7:00 pm
15	Friday	Medaia (Akathist of the Theotokos)	7:00 pm

2nd Week of Lent

20	Wednesday	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck and Discussion	6:30 pm
22	Friday	Medaia (Akathist of the Theotokos)	7:00 pm

3rd Week of Lent

27	Wednesday	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck and Discussion	6:30 pm
29	Friday	Medaia (Akathist of the Theotokos)	7:00 pm

April 4th Week of Lent

3	Wednesday	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck and Discussion	6:30 pm
5	Friday	Medaia (Akathist of the Theotokos)	7:00 pm

5th Week of Lent

10	Wednesday	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	6:30 pm
12	Friday	Akathist of the Theotokos	7:00 pm

6th Week of Lent

17	Wednesday	Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Potluck and Discussion	6:30 pm
20	Saturday	Teaching Liturgy Church Cleaning and Preparation for Pascha	9:00 am Lazarus Saturday

Holy Week

22	Monday	Bridegroom Matins	7:00 pm
23	Tuesday	Bridegroom Matins	7:00 pm
24	Wednesday	Presanctified Liturgy Matins of Holy Thursday and Unction	4:00 pm 7:00 pm
25	Thursday	Vesperal Liturgy of the Last Supper Matins of Holy Friday (12 Gospels)	3:30 pm 7:00 pm
26	Friday	Royal Hours Vespers of Holy Friday (Burial of the Lord)	9:00 am 3:00 pm
27	Saturday	Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations) Vesperal Liturgy	7:00 pm 9:30 am
		Paschal Services begin at	11:30 pm

Bright Week

28	Sunday	Agape Vespers & Egg Hunt & Picnic	noon
29	Monday	Bright Monday Paschal Liturgy	9:00 am

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 for the new proportions....

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 or somewhere in between)

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

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 <http://antiochian.org/rewardsprogram> and register with your email address.
2. Remember to visit <http://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 <http://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.