



## ***St. John Chrysostom Church***

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
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### **January 2010 SJCC News**

My Joy in the Lord,

Welcome to a new year.

This is the time for blessings, for re-dedication to sobriety and a time for preparation for Great Lent. This year Pascha is on April 4 (which is the earliest possible date for Pascha in our current calendar combination - Pascha according to the Julian, saints and fixed feasts according to the Gregorian). So we begin preparations for Great Lent as soon as we have finished with the Theophany of our Lord.

I wanted to start a small Sunday school class this month, but it will have to wait until we complete the modifications to our space so that the children can have peace and quiet, without too many distractions. In general, I believe that Sunday school should be an addition to what is taught at home, rather than a replacement. What the Church does best is reinforce what parents say and do. No matter how good a teacher, what happens at home is the most important thing in the life of every person, not just a child. If there is prayer, if there is time for Bible stories and lives of the saints at home, then we are surrounded by God and his kingdom. If it all waits for Sunday, or even has other days of the week in the church, but is not at home as well, then God becomes “outside”, someone to visit rather than someone to live with. I pray that all of you take the time and make the effort to have God always living in your hearts and minds.

With love, in Christ,  
Fr. Seraphim

#### **Why and when do we celebrate the New Year?**

It is one of the idiosyncracies of our modern Orthodox Church that we actually have TWO new years – one on September 1 and one on January 1.

The September date is based on the Roman Imperial taxation calendar, which the Church accepted as the basis for her year. The Church calendar has special texts for the inception of a new year on that date and the ancient numbering of years “from the date of creation” begins then (it is currently 7518 – and no, this does not match the Western currently accepted date of creation – where it is 6014) .

The January date is also based on the Roman Calendar, but instead of the taxation year, it is based on the civil service calendar – Consuls would take up their post on January 1 and it is the date on which the “year of our Lord” – “Anno Domini” would change. While there are no special texts in the church calendar for a new year on that date, it is, instead, the celebration of the Circumcision of our Lord and the feast of St. Basil the Great, there is a special service that has been written for the new year to be served on that date.

In modern times the acceptance of the January date became associated with the Gregorian calendar and the Roman Catholic Church and many Orthodox Christians do not recognize it as appropriate for the Orthodox Church as a result. The interesting part is that the Russian Church began printing all of

her church books with January as the start date for the Church New Year in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (but without moving the September 1 new year texts).

So, will the Church ever move the texts from September to January? I doubt it, but I think it would be nice. In the meantime, happy New Year 2010....

### **Floyd Frantz's visit**

Thank you everyone, for making Floyd's visit a success. Through your generosity, we raised \$1,038.00 for his and his wife's work. I hope to make our support for him an ongoing effort, so I am asking you to sign up for a monthly donation - \$1, \$5, or \$10 (inflation). You can pay the amount monthly or all at once. I ask that you only sign your name on the support sign-up form, not the amount – that will be evident when you give your first check.

### **Sunday of Orthodoxy (Feb 21)**

This year all three bishops (Metropolitan Isaiah, (our) Bishop Basil, and Bishop Benjamin) will be serving the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at Assumption Cathedral in Denver. Archbishop Dimitri, when he was diocesan bishop for the OCA Diocese of the South, began the custom of the three local hierarchs from the OCA, Antiochian Archdiocese and Greek Archdiocese to concelebrate together on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent. This year it is Denver's turn. I hope you can all mark your calendars and make a special effort to come together for this service.

### **Coffee Hour and Cleanup**

Since apostolic times, when a common meal was the norm for a Christian gathering, the Church has been a place not just for worship but for support. Support in a worldly sense and support in a spiritual sense. To me, a common meal, even just bread and water, completes the worship service. It helps us be a community of support for each other. It is part of our responsibility and part of our spirituality. Please accept this responsibility, not as something that is demanded, but as an offering from our hearts to all in the community.

Speaking of bread and water, the water (along with some beans and leaves as well as other things to add to the water) is provided by our community in common. The bread (as well as some things to put on it or perhaps fancier versions, such as cake), and perhaps fruits, is what we ask each family to take a turn providing.

However, as we grow, it can become more difficult for some to host the coffee hour alone. We do have some donated funds to help with coffee hour. If you either need some assistance or would like to double up with someone, but don't know who to ask, please call or talk to my wife, Masha, about this. She will be happy to assist you confidentially (even I won't know). You can reach her at home or on her cell phone (303.358.1360), or talk to her before or after services.

Beside the providing of the bread+, I also ask that each family take responsibility for cleanup – not just of the tables and dishes where we eat, but also for the church as well – vacuuming the entire church is very helpful. I take care of the altar area, but the rest really needs to be picked up and vacuumed after Liturgy. Your help is much appreciated.

### **Fast Free week(s)**

The Nativity celebration ends on Tuesday, Jan 5 with a strict Fast (historically Christians did not eat on that day until the first star appeared in the sky – just as on Nativity eve.) Jan 6, even though it is a Wednesday, is fast free in celebration of the Baptism of our Lord – we will have a potluck after liturgy.

The week of Jan 24-31 (the week following the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee) is a fast free week. That means that we do not fast on Wed or Fri of that week. The following week as a regular fasting week (Wed and Fri) then the week after that (Feb 7-14) is called cheesefare week. On that week we eat cheese and eggs every day in memory of a heresy that forbade eating either.

## House blessing 2010

1) House blessing is simple. It is a short prayer for the health of the people living in the house/home and the sprinkling of the living areas, your animals and you with Holy Water. We sprinkle with Holy Water as a sign of God's presence, His blessing and His protection on the whole world, but particularly on our homes and ourselves. We also sprinkle it as a sign of our dedication to Him, who created us and saved us.

2) I ask that you have a small bowl for the Holy Water, an icon, and a candle. The Holy Water, the prayer, and the rest I will bring.

3) Here is my proposed schedule. Please look carefully. If you are not going to be available on the scheduled day, I will be happy to reschedule. If I have missed you, please let me know and I will be happy to add you!

6 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 pm	A&J Gisetti
7 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	K. Yakubik
	6:30 pm	J&L Spencer
	8:00 pm	S&K McCormick
8 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	K Perkins
	6:30 pm	S&J Weddingfeld
	8:00 pm	J&A Finger
9 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am	Matt Borquin
	12:00 pm	Miriam Bourquin
	1:00 pm	J Rall
	2:30 pm	N&D Berry
	6:30 pm	C Baldwin
10 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 pm	J&J Weiss
	2:00 pm	E&J Jerome
	4:30 pm	T&A Comer
	6:00 pm	D&D Tinsley
	7:30 pm	P Saieg
	8:30 pm	S&N Kosinsky
11 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	C. Emmons
	6:30 pm	B&M Waisanen
	8:00 pm	E&P Leshinski
12 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	J&L Grace
	6:30 pm	B&M Yanda
	8:00 pm	K Fredrickson
13 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	J&K Brown
	6:30 pm	J DeMalteris
	8:00 pm	S. Clifford
14 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	L. Moravek

## Schedule of Services and Events

### January

2	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
3	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Sunday before the Theophany</b>
5	Tue	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy and blessing of Water	
6	Wed	6:30 pm	Liturgy & Potluck	<b>Theophany of our Lord</b>
9	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
10	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Sunday after the Theophany</b>
16	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers (baptism & chrismation following)	
17	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	
19	Tue	7:00 pm	Parish Council at J. Spencer's	
21	Thu	7:00 pm	Inquirer's Discussion at Church	
23	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers Open Topics Discussion	
24	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Sunday of the Publican &amp; Pharisee</b>
30	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
31	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b>

### February

6	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
7	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Meatfare Sunday</b>
9	Tue	7:00 pm	Parish Council ? (TBD)	
13	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
14	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday</b>
15				<i>Great Lent Begins</i>
	Mon	7:00 pm	Compline and Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	
17	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy & Potluck & Inquirer's Discussion*	
20	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers Open topics Discussion	
21	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Sunday of Orthodoxy</b>
		6:00 pm	Pan Orthodox Vespers at Assumption Cathedral	
24	Wed	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy & Potluck & Inquirer's Discussion*	
27	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
28	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
		6:00 pm	Lenten Vespers (at Transfiguration Cathedral? TBD)	

\* Inquirer's Discussions will be held each Wednesday during Great Lent following the Presanctified Liturgy.

**2010 / 2011 Proposed Schedule of Non-Sunday Services**  
 (see monthly newsletter for exact times and dates)

**2010**

**January**

5	Tue	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy and blessing of Water	<u>Theophany Eve</u>
6	Wed	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Theophany of our Lord</b>

**February**

2	Tue	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Presentation of our Lord</b>
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**March**

25	Thu	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy	<b>Annunciation</b>
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**May**

13	Thu	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Ascension of our Lord</b>
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**June**

29	Tue	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Ss. Peter &amp; Paul</b>
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**August**

6	Fri	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>
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**September**

8	Wed	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Nativity of the Theotokos</b>
14	Tue	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Elevation of the Cross</b>

**December**

24	Fri	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Royal Hours and Vesperal Liturgy Vigil	<u>Nativity Eve</u>
25	Sat	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Nativity of our Lord</b>

**2011**

**January**

5	Wed	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy and blessing of Water	<u>Theophany Eve</u>
6	Thu	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Theophany of our Lord</b>

**February**

2	Wed	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Presentation of our Lord</b>
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**March**

25	Fri	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy	<b>Annunciation</b>
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**June**

2	Thu	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Ascension of our Lord</b>
29	Wed	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Ss. Peter &amp; Paul</b>

**August**

6	Sat	9:00 pm	Liturgy	<b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>
15	Mon	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Dormition of the Theotokos</b>

**September**

8	Thu	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Nativity of the Theotokos</b>
14	Wed	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Elevation of the Cross</b>

**November**

21	Mon	6:30 pm	Liturgy	<b>Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos</b>
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**December**

23	Fri	9:00 am	Royal Hours	
24	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	<u>Nativity Eve</u>
25	Sun	9:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Nativity of our Lord</b>