

# *The Messenger*

January 2021      Newsletter of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church  
1000 Spruce, Pueblo, CO 81004      PO Box 3011, Pueblo, CO 81005

May God keep everyone well in order to continue to keep St. John The Baptist Church alive and vibrant for future generations to embrace and enjoy.

## January 2021 Week-end Service Schedule

\*Note that the details for our special services for the New Year, Holy Theophany and the Feast Day of St. John's, will be determined when we see what our COVID level does in the next week or so.

**Saturday 1/2– Great Vespers on Zoom– 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 1/3 – Sunday Before Holy Theophany**

Orthros at 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

- 2 Timothy 4:5-8
- Mark 1:1-8

**Saturday 1/9– Great Vespers on Zoom– 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 1/10 – Sunday after Holy Theophany**

Orthros at 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

- [Ephesians 4:7-13](#)
- [Matthew 4:12-17](#)

**Saturday 1/16– Great Vespers on Zoom– 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 1/17 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke and St. Anthony the Great**

Orthros at 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

- [Hebrews 13:17-21](#)
- [Luke 17:12-19](#)

**Saturday 1/23– Great Vespers on Zoom– 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 1/24 - 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

- 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- Luke 18:35-43

**Saturday 1/30– Great Vespers on Zoom– 5:00 p.m.**

## Sunday 1/31 - 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Zacchaeus

- 1 Timothy 4:9-15
- [Luke 19:1-10](#)

### Prosforo:

Jan. 3 – Penny  
Jan. 10 – Chad  
Jan. 17 - Fran  
Jan. 24 – Brian  
Jan. 31 - Kathy

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Happy New Year – the latest version! Well, we made it this far safely but we finally got caught with the virus. Pam Jacobsen, who attends church regularly, got the corona virus. After consulting with the Health Dept., we were told to cancel church services until Jan. 10. While this is a hiccup on our way, it is a relatively small hiccup. We could have been told to stay closed longer or we could have had more closures over the past months. Moral of the story? Wear those masks even if you think you shouldn't have to, keep that 6 foot distancing, keep washing those hands and BE CAREFUL!

Happy New Year- written earlier! The church's New Year begins in September but the beginning of the new calendar year is the one most commonly thought of when we say Happy New Year. So have you made resolutions? Of course you have. In a few months, we plan to be thinner, more organized, richer ( watching that incidental spending, etc.), and several other common themes. Well, here are some other ideas for New Year's resolutions you might find worthwhile...

Keep skid chains on your tongue; always say less than you think. Cultivate a low, persuasive voice. How you say it, often counts more than what you say.

Make promises sparingly, and keep them faithfully, no matter what it costs.

Never let any opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, criticize helpfully, never spitefully.

Be interested in others, their pursuits, their work, their homes and families. Make merry with those who rejoice; with those who weep, mourn. Let everyone you

meet, however humble, feel that you regard them as a person of importance. Be cheerful.

Don't burden or depress those around you by dwelling on your minor aches and pains and small disappointments. Remember, everyone is carrying his own cross.

Keep an open mind. Discuss, but don't argue. It is a mark of a superior heart to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.

Let your virtues speak for themselves. Refuse to talk of another's vices. Discourage gossip. It is a waste of valuable time and is extremely destructive.

Be careful of another's feelings. Wit and humor at the other person's expense are rarely worth it and may hurt when least expected.

Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about you. Remember, the person who carried the message may not be the most accurate reporter in the world. Simply live so that nobody will believe

*Monthly meditation from Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco*

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A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little daughter. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today"

After a few minutes, she returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. Oh, she said, "On the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together".

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I was on a long line at 7:45 am today at the grocery store that opened at 8 for seniors only. A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her cane. He returned and tried to cut in again but an old man punched him in the gut, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away. As he approached the line for the 3rd time he said, "If you don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in there."

## **Saint Spyridon**

Spyridon was a fourth-century bishop and a shepherd. He was a father and husband until his wife died. Through simplicity and deep devotion to God, St. Spyridon worked miracles throughout his life and became known to all as a great Wonderworker; calling forth rain in the midst of drought, casting out demons with a single word, healing the sick and even raising people from the dead. He is known for the miracles his prayers brought, including one at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

Did you ever think a brick could be used to explain the mystery of the Trinity? There in the city of Nicea (Asia Minor) he astonished many with his simple explanations of the Orthodox Faith. At one point during the gathering he explained the unity and diversity of the Trinity by holding up a brick, then commonly thought to be a combination of the elements fire, earth and water; as he spoke, fire blazed from the top of the brick while water dripped to the ground, and only dust remained in his hand. "There was only one brick," St. Spyridon said, "but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are Three Persons, but only One God."

Today, St. Spyridon's incorrupt body lies in a casket in a church on Corfu, as it did in 1716 when the Turks captured the Peloponnesus. The Turks directed their military in a surprise attack into the Corfu city harbor to control and pillage the island. The battle was fought for fifty days, and the Turks overpowered the Christians, murdering them in whatever direction they went. Day and night the people prayed to St. Spyridon to intercede for them. At dawn on a fateful day, St. Spyridon appeared to all with a sword of lightening surrounded by a vast army of angels. As the saint swung his sword, the Turks scattered and retreated. In their confusion, they even killed one another. They left the city walls and went in the direction of the Turkish encampment, leaving behind their tents and equipment. Not one Turk remained on the island. The people honored St. Spyridon with a procession and hymns of thanksgiving.

Each month we will be visiting one of the various saints we have displayed in St. John's Church. This icon is displayed behind the candle counter.



Pakistan (MNN) — On Christmas Morning in Lahore, Pakistan, a group of 50-60 Muslim men attacked a Christian church during their Christmas service. They aimed to kidnap and assault the women in attendance.

The security guards and other men at the church fought back with bare hands against the staff-wielding intruders, giving the women time to escape. Many Christian men suffered blunt trauma injuries and fractures in the fight.

Things got worse when the police arrived. Authorities helped the defeated Muslims escape, and blamed Christians for fighting back. Nehemiah from **FMI** says, “They scolded and threatened the Christian community, the Christian church, saying it’s illegal to have their own security. Which is truly an unjustified and illegal action by the police, because it was announced by the government of Pakistan two years ago, that every church must have its own security. They must have their own CCTV cameras, barbed wires, and medical equipment.”...

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