

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Matins 9:00AM Liturgy 10:00AM	7 Labor Day	8 Holy Day Birth of The Virgin Mary Liturgy 9AM Board Meeting 6:30PM	9 Daily Vespers 6:30PM w/ Spirituality Class	10 Professional Day	11	12
13 Matins 9:00AM Liturgy 10:00AM	14	15	16 Daily Vespers 6:30PM w/ Bible Study	17 Professional Day	18 Liturgy 9:00AM	19 Sisterhood Gathering At Parish 10:00AM
20 Matins 9:00AM Liturgy 10:00AM	21	22	23 Daily Vespers 6:30PM w/ Spirituality Class	24 Professional Day	25	26
27 Matins 9:00AM Liturgy 10:00AM Parish Council Meeting	28	29	30 Daily Vespers 6:30PM w/ Bible Study	Oct. 1 Holy Protection Liturgy 9AM	2	3
4 Matins 9:00AM Liturgy 10:00AM	5	6	7 Daily Vespers 6:30PM w/ Spiritual Class	8	9	10

+CONFESSIONS: Please call Fr. Jonathan to make an appointment. Confession is a sacrament of the Church through which we receive the forgiveness of our sins. Understanding sin as an illness of the soul, in confession we share our sins like we would an illness to a doctor and the priest offers the prayer of forgiveness and at times a word to encourage hope and may prescribe / suggest ways to invite Christ into needed areas of our life.

+PASTORAL NEEDS, HOSPITAL CALLS, NURSING/REHAB AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS: If you have a pastoral need or emergency and would like to speak to Fr. Jonathan or know of someone who cannot make it to church and would like to schedule a pastoral visit, please contact Father by phoning at 815.721.4852

+ PROFESSIONAL DAY: During the Academic Year, on Thursdays, Father Jonathan will take the day off and respond to calls, texts, and emails the following day. Pastoral emergencies will continue to be responded to as needed.



+ NEW PARISH WEBSITE



New Online Giving Platform.

CHRIST THE SAVIOUR

September 6th

1802 Pershing Ave. Rockford, Illinois 61108
Father's Cell Phone: 815-721-4952

ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Jonathan Bannon
e: jsbannon@gmail.com

- **Sunday September 6th:** Matins 9AM, Liturgy 10:00AM. Coffee Hour to follow
- **Tuesday September 8th: HOLY DAY Divine Liturgy 9:00AM Birth of the Virgin Mary**
- **Wednesday September 9th Daily Vespers 6:30PM w/ Spiritual Study**

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- **CHURCH CLEANING DAY:** Thank you to the two members and one inquirer who helped clean in and out of the church on September 5th.
- **MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:** September 8th, 6:30M. All members in good standing are welcome.
- **SISTERHOOD GATHERING**
Saturday August 19th 10:00AM at the parish.
All women of our parish (inquirers, catechumens, members) are invited to get together to get to know each other, enjoy fellowship and talk about possible goals for the group looking forward. This is not an official meeting, but a time to get together. Current Sisterhood board members are President: Sophie Brucki, Vice-President Jenna Shedd, Treasurer: Irena Larson. Please speak with them to learn more.

Annual Parish Meeting Announcement #3

Our **Annual Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, September 27**, following Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour. **All members in good standing sacramentally and in stewardship are strongly encouraged to attend**, as members in good standing have voice and vote in the meeting.

Our goal is to conduct the meeting prayerfully, efficiently, and within approximately **45 minutes to one hour**, with reports and business prepared in advance so that our time together can remain focused and productive.

THREE-FOLD PLAN:

- **September 27 Sunday:** Annual Meeting and the accepting of nominations for the **2027 Parish Board**.
- **November Meeting:** On November 8th we will have an election meeting where the nominated members will be voted on for the parish board of 2027. From November–December a transition period is held which newly elected members will work alongside the outgoing Board before beginning their terms on **January 1, 2027**.

Parish leadership is not simply about filling positions, but about serving Christ and His Church. We ask everyone to approach both the Annual Meeting and the nomination process prayerfully, with humility, and remember healthy communication is a must for all board members. Regular communication with the priest of the parish and each other is essential.

Please make every effort to attend and participate in the shared life and future of Christ the Saviour

Elder Teofil Paraian (the Blind):

You are truly humble
when you do not seek
humility...



Virtues are the soul's strengths, habits of goodness, a stable perseverance in what is good. You are truly humble when you no longer seek humility, but already possess it and act on the basis of this virtue, on the basis of this humility.

For example, in the Paterikon [Book of sayings of the Holy Fathers] it is said that a Father, a hermit, was asked: which are the sheep, and which are the goats? This saying is connected with what the Lord Christ said and what we read in the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 25, namely, that the Son of Man (the Lord Christ) will separate the good from the evil, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, or the goats from the sheep. And the question was: which are the sheep? Which are the goats? What is meant by sheep? What is meant by goats? The answer could have been very simple: the sheep are the good believers, and the goats are the evil ones, who cannot be together with the good in the Kingdom of God. But the hermit answered differently; perhaps not as the questioner expected, but like this: **“The goats are me, and God knows the sheep.”**

A very beautiful answer, and a spontaneous one; that is, an answer he could give because he was humble. He did not respond with the answer generally expected to such a question, but with an unexpected one, because he had an inner disposition unexpected by the one who asked.

(Archimandrite Teofil Paraian, How We Can Become Better – Means of Spiritual Improvement, Agaton Publishing House, p. 422)

Source: <https://doxologia.ro/esti-cu-adevarat-smerit-atunci-cand-nu-cauti-smerenia>



Holy Things are for the Holy

And so then he (St. Paisios) said we shouldn't compare each other to one another; we need to compare ourselves to the saints or to Christ, because if we compare ourselves to each other, we'll either become proud if we think we're better off, or we'll be depressed if we think we're worse off. But we need to compare ourselves to Christ and the saints because then that's a good mirror for us. Because some people say, “I don't go to the *bouzoukia*; I go to vigils. I'm holy!” He says but we shouldn't be comparing ourselves to one another; we should be comparing ourselves with Christ and the saints. I like that a lot, too.

- Recollection from Fr. Nicholas Palis

**•PARISH RULE OF PRAYER:
WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?
15 MINUTES:**

5 minutes - Scripture

5 minutes - Jesus Prayer

5 minutes - Stillness / Silence



Sacramental and Membership Information:

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); and financially support the parish (especially through an annual “submitted stewardship pledge card”). Prospective members and returning members are asked to fill out a Stewardship Card, copies of which are available near Church entrance. Only members in good standing sacramentally and with stewardship are allowed a voice & vote at annual parish meetings and to be considered for serving on the parish board or any other ministry offered in our parish proper. If you

- Membership in Good Standing

To have voice and vote at parish meetings, to serve in an elected position on the Parish Board, or to serve in a ministry of the parish, a member must be in good sacramental standing and in good standing with Stewardship.

Good Sacramental Standing

Good Sacramental standing includes having offered Holy Confession during the required Lenten season, according to the bylaws of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, and having received the Holy Eucharist at least once during the year.

If you made your Lenten Confession to another Orthodox priest, I will need to be informed so the parish records may accurately reflect your standing lest you be considered not in good standing with one's own Diocese.

Members are responsible for communicating this information or promptly request a Confession if the sacrament has not been received yet. *Let us not put off this beautiful sacrament.*

Good Standing in Stewardship

Good standing in Stewardship includes completing an annual stewardship pledge card and actively offering one's time, talent, and treasure in support of the parish.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE /

Food and drinks remain outside the nave of the Church.

The nave (center of the church) is the sacred space of prayer, indeed the narthex (entrance) also is filled with icons of intention, helping us acclimate and align our hearts and minds for worship. Food, drink, and conversation are to be reserved for the fellowship hall during coffee hour.

When to Stand:

1. When the Eucharist (in the chalice) is present, as the Faithful receive Holy Communion, do not sit for this is God's House and He is present in His Nave.
2. Every Gospel reading.
3. During the 6 Psalms that begin Matins there should be no movement because these psalms represent the time of our judgement and increased watchfulness.
4. The Doxology that ends Matins just before Liturgy begins at 10AM "Glory to God in the Highest"
5. At anytime the priest is censing, or during a procession.

When to Refrain walking in the Nave:

If arriving late or stepping out, please do so quietly.

Avoid entering during the following times:

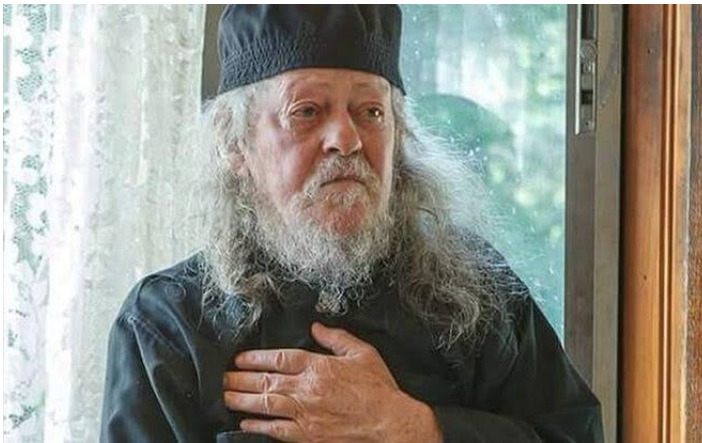
- **The Gospel reading,**
- **The Great Entrance** (when the veiled chalice and diskos are processed through the nave while the priest intones a prayer of commemorations.
- **The Creed** “I believe in one God, the Father Almighty...”,
- **The Anaphora**, when the bread and wine are consecrated and we hear “Take and eat, this is My body which is broken for you...” “Drink of this all of you, this is My blood of the New Testament which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins.”
- **The Sermon.**

Dress your best for God is present.

We do not dress to impress others, but to honor the Lord. Modesty and reverence help remind us that we are entering the house of God. **Jeans are too informal for the Divine Liturgy and any service.** Regionally we treat jeans as something that can be worn to a myriad of gatherings but to the offering of the Eucharist and the bloodless sacrifice of Christ? Rockford Rescue Mission has dress pants for sale near the church. Just as a priest wears a cassock and it can bring the mind and heart together for the service by wearing something specific for the sacred space, this is an invitation to consider having that experience with dressing for the occasion. Would we wear jeans when our Bishop visits? If we wear suits on Easter and for the Bishop and not every Sunday, then there is room to grow in our understanding of what is taking place every Liturgy and Who is invisibly present.

Don't Ask the Measure of Love; Look at the Cross

-Elder Gabriel
(Disciple of St. Paisios)



“Recently my husband, Fr. John, my brother, and a friend of ours all had the blessing of meeting a disciple of Elder Paisios of Mount Athos. His name is Geronda Gabriel; they met him at his skete on Mt. Athos, not far from Elder Paisios’ skete. He was wonderful and spoke to them extensively about humility and then took the time to speak to them each individually. He gave them some photocopies which he had all over his skete – photocopies and books. So the following is my translation of some photocopy he gave to my brother. (It’s very Greek to give people pamphlets, books, photocopies, etc. We have received so many throughout the years that I don’t know how we’ll manage to bring them all home with us when we leave.)”

From Love:

If you keep silent, may you keep silent out of love.

If you speak, may you speak out of love.

If you correct, may you correct out of love.

If you forgive, may you forgive out of love.

In the depth of your heart, may you have the seed of love.

For from one such seed only good is able to proceed.

Ministries of our Parish

- **PROSFORA:** Pani Marianna
 - Today’s Prosfora offered by Meier Family
- **CHOIR:** Caroline Erber
- **ATRIUM (Montessori):** Laura Warmke
- **SCRIPTURE CLASS:** Kevin Shedd
- **SISTERHOOD WOMEN’S GROUP:**
President: Sophie Brucki
Vice President: Jenna Shedd
Treasurer: Irena Larson
- **LIBRARY & BOOK STORE:**
Amber Hathcock, Christine Blanco, & Fr. Jonathan
- **HOSPITALITY/ COFFEE HOUR:**
Point Persons: Manal & Maurice AlMassad, and Curtis Barnes.
- **LOVE IN DEED:**
(Caring for our Oldest Members):
Christine Blanco, Vashawn Harshman, Curtis & Pam Barnes
- **MEAL TRAINS:**
Jenna Shedd, Savannah Diaz
- **Church Maintenance (Electric /HVAC):**
Victor Nafranowicz with Jesse Gruber.
- **Church Indoor Cleaning:** Steve Rundell
- **Landscaping Outdoor Care:** Bart Colvin
- **Candle Ministry:** Curtis Barnes
A day for making candles will be scheduled. Share your interest with Curtis!
- **Incense Ministry:** Ben and Amy Fairweather
- **OCLife Sanctity of Life Group:**
Dan Daub, Tyler and Savannah Diaz
- **Venison Ministry!** Deer Meat locally bow-hunted and offered to care for others.
- **College Student Ministry:**
OCF Chapter: Rockford Region
Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Jonathan
Are you a college student and seeking fellowship and the programs OCF provides? Speak with Fr. Jonathan and check out OCF.net

- **Serving Our Neighbor Food Pantry:**
Non-Perishable Food Care for our immediate neighborhood: Naomi Reid, Curtis and Pam Barnes, Gerhard and Nicole Meier. Care bags / packages for those in need.

PARISH BOARD / COUNCIL:

Parish Priest: Fr. Jonathan Bannon
Parish Board President: Maurice AlMassad
Parish Board V. President: Curtis Barnes IV
Treasurer: Jenna Shedd
Financial Secretary: David Shinn
Recording Secretary: Amber Hackiewicz

- **Interested in serving your God and His Church?**
Ask your priest, a board member, and anyone of the main contacts of these growing ministries.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are happy you have joined us today. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God’s Blessings to all who visit with us today & hope you stop in again soon!

You have just experienced the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. It is our ordinary service of worship on regular Sundays in the Orthodox Church. The Liturgy - as experienced this morning- stems from the 4th century though its practices were inherited from the time of the Apostles in the book of Acts. It also represents a time when all Christians worshipped in One Undivided Church. If you have any questions in regards to our worship or the Orthodox Church in general please see Fr. Jonathan and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you.

At our best, we are known for our welcoming attitude, hospitality generosity and compassion. At our worst, we are sinners, but we’re working out our salvation together and could use your help. If you are looking for a church home, and a church where we work on our own hearts first we hope you prayerfully consider making Christ the Savior’s that place. Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!