

**The Weekly Messenger – February 21, 2016**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
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*Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Timothy 3:10-15    Gospel: Luke 18:10-14*

**Welcome to our visitors.** Father Brooks, the members of our Parish Council and our church community thank you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us. We invite you to join us for coffee hour and fellowship in the church hall following the Divine Liturgy.

**Great Lent** begins Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have Pre-sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday nights beginning March 16<sup>th</sup>, Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and discussion will be held in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Bajame (Joseph's Mother), George Notskas, Helen Douris, William Zoidis, June Mitrocsak, Elaine Quirias, Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Pope Francis, Donna Hlavacek, Jenny Sapnas, Betty Subashi, Betty Ledford, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Susan, Philip Kosta, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Peter Mallios George Robos, Clive & Dhimitri Miller, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Andigoni Steffa, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

**Upcoming Events:**

Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday school ice skating outing  
March 5<sup>th</sup> Women's Day dance  
March 6<sup>th</sup> Meatfare Sunday & Charity & Benevolence Presentation  
March 13<sup>th</sup> Cheesefare & Forgiveness Sunday  
March 14<sup>th</sup> Great Lent Begins  
March 15<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm  
March 16<sup>th</sup> Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm  
March 20<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Parish meeting during coffee hour  
March 27<sup>th</sup> 1 year Memorial Flossie Vissar

**Readers Schedule:** Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Michele D, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Adam C., March 6<sup>th</sup> Chris M., March 13<sup>th</sup> Reader Mark, March 20<sup>th</sup> Michele D, March 27<sup>th</sup> Adam C., April 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris M.

**The power of humility.** In the Orthodox Church, the Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee [Luke 18:10-14) is the first of a cycle of appointed Gospel readings that inaugurates the pre-Lenten season. In other words, on an annual basis, precisely four weeks before Great Lent begins, we hear this parable proclaimed in the Liturgy. The intentions of the Lord in delivering this parable are clearly expressed in the solemn pronouncement following the parable itself: "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted" [Luke 18:14].  
<https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/the-power-of-humility>

**The Women's Day Celebration and Dance:** Saturday, March 5, 2016, 6:00 – 10:00 pm in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$40.00, \$20.00 for children under 12. DJ Sergio Xhoxhi will be playing Albanian music all night! A buffet dinner and continuous dancing are included! Please contact Luiza or Nilda Salavachi for tickets. You may also email [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org) for more information



**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Thank you to those who have signed up!

Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Ann Gjoka & Linda Notskas  
Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Ed & Elena Papa  
March 6<sup>th</sup> Charity & Benevolence Committee  
March 13<sup>th</sup> Spartak Brahillari 1 year memorial for Shyqyrie (Spartak's Mother)  
March 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday School  
March 27<sup>th</sup> Haxhistasa Family – Vangel's Nameday

**Parishioner News: Congratulations** to Eldion & Megan Pajollari on the birth of their daughter, Emma Marie, born January 28, 2016, 6 lbs, 5oz. Eldion is the Godson of Linda and David Biando. Many Years!

**Home Blessing/Visitation:** Please don't miss this opportunity to sign up for a visit and home blessing. Father Brooks would like to visit all of our parishioners and get to know you and your family. You may pick a date and time that is convenient and sign up on the sheet in the vestibule. Or you may contact Father Brooks directly to arrange a date for him to visit you and your family. [fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org) or call 210-461-1956

**February giving: Paper Napkins**