

The Weekly Messenger – February 21, 2016
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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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 14th. We will have Pre-sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday nights beginning March 16th, 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 21st Sunday school ice skating outing
March 5th Women's Day dance
March 6th Meatfare Sunday & Charity & Benevolence Presentation
March 13th Cheesefare & Forgiveness Sunday
March 14th Great Lent Begins
March 15th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm
March 16th Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm
March 20th Semi-Annual Parish meeting during coffee hour
March 27th 1 year Memorial Flossie Vissar

Readers Schedule: Feb 21st Michele D, Feb 28th Adam C., March 6th Chris M., March 13th Reader Mark, March 20th Michele D, March 27th Adam C., April 3rd 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 for more information



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

Feb 21st Ann Gjoka & Linda Notskas
Feb 28th Ed & Elena Papa
March 6th Charity & Benevolence Committee
March 13th Spartak Brahillari 1 year memorial for Shyqyrie (Spartak's Mother)
March 20th Sunday School
March 27th 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 or call 210-461-1956

February giving: Paper Napkins