

**The Weekly Messenger – February 28, 2016**

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

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*Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32*

**The Prodigal Son: “From a far country...”** “And He said, ‘There was a man who had two sons....’” This is how Christ begins what is perhaps the greatest of his parables, the one we know as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but which could easily be titled the “Parable of the Two Sons” or the “Parable of the Compassionate Father.” With this parable, which we will hear at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 28, we are invited to enter the “school of repentance”—Great Lent—and sit at the feet of the Master, so that we can hear the words of eternal life and “keep them.” Read more

<https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/the-prodigal-son-from-a-far-country>

**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 (Josef's Mother), George Notskas, Helen Douris, William Zoidis, 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.

**February giving: Paper Napkins**

**The Women's Day Celebration and Dance: NEXT 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

**Sunday school Ice Skating:** Smiles, skates and pizza. Can't get much better than that! Many thanks to our Sunday school Director Mr. Steve, for arranging a great Sunday afternoon of fun for our students and parishioners. Approximately 50 people attended and everyone had a super good time!

**Upcoming Events:**

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/1 Year Memorial Shyqyrie Brahollari

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> 1 Year Memorial Ernie Douris

Semi-Annual Parish meeting during coffee hour

**THURSDAY** - March 24<sup>th</sup> Vesperal Liturgy Annunciation 6:30 pm no fast

Pot Luck following - for the Annunciation Feast

March 27<sup>th</sup> 1 year Memorial Flossie Vissar

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

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Ed & Elena Papa – Marissa's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday

March 6<sup>th</sup> Charity & Benevolence Committee

March 13<sup>th</sup> Spartak Brahollari 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

**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

**Readers Schedule:** 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., April 10<sup>th</sup> Reader Mark