

The Weekly Messenger – March 13, 2016
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979
Website: <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4
Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday) The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During the pre-Lenten period, the services of the Church include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

Read more at <http://lent.goarch.org/forgiveness/learn/>

Great Lent begins Tomorrow, 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.

Semi Annual Parish Meeting: March 20, 2016 during coffee hour. Parish business to be discussed: Religious Education, Church Finances, Social Activities, selection of delegates for Archdiocesan Assembly Sept. 23 - 24, 2016. This year the Assembly will be at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, Southbridge, MA.

Commemorations for the Departed: Ernie Douris, Bajame (Josef's Mother), Tranette Ledford, 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, Constantine, Kathie Costa, Donna Hlavacek, 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.

March giving: single ply toilet tissue. Thank you to those who donated napkins last month.

What a Great Time: At the annual Women's Day Dance. Thank you to 108 people came to celebrate women. We ate well and DJ Sergio played Albanian songs into the night. Special thanks to Nilda, Spartak for organizing, DJ Sergio for the exceptional music, light show & video, Colleen, Jason, for setting up and to the kitchen crew Linda B. Mike, Traci, Kristin, Donna. Thank you Jani M. for helping set up the video & lights!



Upcoming Events:

March 13th Cheesefare & Forgiveness Sunday/1 Year Memorial Shyqyrie Brahollari

March 14th Great Lent Begins

March 15th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY March 16th Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm

March 20th 15 Year Memorial for Apostol Priftanji

Semi-Annual Parish meeting during coffee hour

THURSDAY - March 24th Vespertal Liturgy Annunciation 6:30 pm no fast

Pot Luck following - for the Annunciation Feast

March 27th 1 Year Memorial Flossie Vissar

April 3rd 1 Year Memorial Constantine Duka

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

March 13th Spartak Brahollari 1 year memorial for Shyqyrie (Spartak's Mother)

March 20th Sunday School

March 27th Haxhistasa Family – Vangel's Nameday &

The Vissar Family in memory of Flossie

April 3rd Duka/Budo Family in memory of Constantine

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

Readers Schedule: March 13th Reader Mark, March 20th Michele D, March 27th Adam C., April 3rd Chris M., April 10th Reader Mark, April 17th Michele

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.