

The Weekly Messenger – February 12, 2017
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
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Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the previous Sunday, the services of the Church began to 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. As with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads Orthodox Christians to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. <http://lent.goarch.org/prodigalson/learn/>

The Women's Day Celebration and Dance: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 6:00 – 11:00 pm in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$50.00, \$20.00 for children under 12. A buffet dinner and continuous dancing are included! In order to keep the costs down we are inviting you to BYOB. Please contact Nilda Salavachi treasurer@stjohnsphila.org

Home Blessing/Visitation: The sign-up sheet, located in the side vestibule, will have a regional location. For the months of February & March Father Brooks will visit families in Delaware County and Southwest PA. In the month of April – Northeast Phila. 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: fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org or call 215-992-9234

Great Lent begins Monday, Feb 27th. . We will have Pre-sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday nights beginning March 1st @ 7:00pm., Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and discussion will be held in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy.

VESTMENTS: We are looking for an individual in our parish that is able to sew a set of vestments for Father Brooks. The current vestments are from the 1980's and are well worn. We will purchase the material and hopefully someone will be able to sew the vestments. Please contact Father Brooks if you are able to volunteer for this endeavor.

Monthly giving for February: Paper Napkins

Soup-er Bowl Sunday – A Fantastic Success: Thanks to everyone that made soup, bought soup, helped to set up, serve and clean up on Super-Bowl Sunday. Thanks also to Spartak Brahollari who volunteered to bring our leftover soup to our area homeless people. As a result of everyone's generosity \$435.00 will be donated to Project Home. 1515 Fairmount Ave, Phila. <https://projecthome.org/> Special Thanks to Linda Biando for starting this wonderful event and for making sure things run smoothly each year!

Commemorations for the Living: Paul Dimitri, Thomas Anderson, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Zoidis, John Kolea, Jr., William Spiro, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Kim Burdumy, Andigoni Steffa, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Commemorations for the Departed: Anna Laska, Philip Kosta, Joseph Potter, Greg Vrato, Sr., Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Please take a look at the sign-up sheet and pick a date!!

Feb 12th Michele Lorimer, Amanda Schneider, Missy Zavatsky, Madge Graziani
February 19th Elena & Eduard Papa Marissa's 3rd Birthday
February 26th Kosta Family in memory of Phil – 40 days
March 5th Pandora Bendo

Upcoming Events:

Feb 12th Sunday of Prodigal Son
Feb. 19th Meatfare Sunday
WEDNESDAY Feb 22nd Charity & Benevolence 7:00 pm
Feb 26th Sunday of Forgiveness/Cheesefare/40 Day Memorial Phil Kosta
Feb 27th Great Lent begins
Saturday March 4th Women's Day Celebration/Dance 6 pm – 11pm
Wed. March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5th Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ 7:00 pm
Saturday April 8th Lazarus Saturday Retreat
April 9th Palm Sunday – Pancake Breakfast
April 16th Pascha (Liturgy @ 11:00 pm Saturday night April 15th)

Parishioner News: Congratulations to Paul & Lisa Laska on the birth of their son, Gabriel George. Gabriel was born on 12/8/16 and weighed in at 7lbs, 6 oz. We wish them many happy and healthy years!

Father Brooks will open the church weekdays during Great Lent from 12:00 – 1:00 pm Tuesday – Friday. If you are in the city we encourage you to stop by.