

The Weekly Messenger – February 19, 2017
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Meatfare Sunday is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25.31-46). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.

<https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/pre-lent>

John Melnik – Annual Buddy Walk: Team Brother John looks forward to another great Buddy Walk this year. Please come out to do the walk, have some fun and picnic with us under the Brother John tent. Susan, Vlad, Juliana and John are always looking for new faces to join as they celebrate together. It is Saturday, May 13th from 1-4pm. Hopefully more people will be able to walk since it is on a Saturday this year!

See Susan or Vlad Melnik in church or click on this link:

<http://secure.dsadelaware.org/BuddyWalk/BuddiesAndTeams/Team.aspx?TeamID=814>

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.

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.

Monthly giving for February: Paper Napkins

Pledge Update: Our 2017 budget for pledges is \$60,000.00. To date we have received 27 pledges totaling \$17,645.00. Pledge cards are available at the candle stand. You may also make a pledge online at <http://www.stjohnsphila.org/memberpledges.html>

Parishioner News: There will be a 40 day Memorial for Anna Laska on March 5th at The Church of the Annunciation in Elkins Park, Pa. Please keep Anna and her family in your prayers.

Calling All Musicians: Do you or someone you know play the piano? The choir is looking for someone to help out by playing the organ during the Divine Liturgy. It would not be every week as we have Kathie Costa and Christine Dardaris, but we can always use another set of hands! Please see Kathie Costa or Vlad Melnik if you are interested.

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!!!

February 19th Elena & Eduard Papa Marissa's 3rd Birthday

February 26th Kosta Family in memory of Phil – 40 days

March 5th Pandora Bendo

March 12th OPEN DATE – NO SPONSOR

March 19th Sunday school

March 26th Sergio & Colleen Xhoxhi

April 2nd OPEN DATE – NO SPONSOR

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 19th Meatfare Sunday

WEDNESDAY Feb 22nd Charity & Benevolence 7:00 pm

Saturday, Feb 25th YAL meeting @5:30 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

March 19th Semi-annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour

Wed. March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5th Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

Saturday April 8th Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am followed by Lazarus Saturday Retreat

April 9th Palm Sunday – Pancake Breakfast