

The Weekly Messenger – February 26, 2017

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

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*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4*

*Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21*

**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. <http://lent.goarch.org/forgiveness/learn/>

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** As we already have seen, the eucharistic Divine Liturgy is not celebrated in the Orthodox Church on lenten weekdays. In order for the faithful to sustain their lenten effort by participation in Holy Communion, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served. The service is an ancient one in the Orthodox Church. We officially hear about it in the canons of the seventh century, which obviously indicates its development at a much earlier date.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is an evening service. It is the solemn lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the eucharistic gifts at the presanctified liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, unless, of course, the feast of the Annunciation should intervene; hence its name of "presanctified." Read more:

<https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/liturgy-of-the-presanctified-gifts>

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

**Choir Update:** Congratulations to Vlad Melnik for being named Choir Director at St. Johns. Our gratitude and sincere thanks to Diane Lescas who served as Choir Director for many years! Diane and Ted spend over half the year in Fla. Hopefully Diane will continue to lend her beautiful voice to the choir when she comes home.

**International Women's Day Celebration and Dance:** NEXT Saturday, March 4, 2017, 6:00 – 11:00 pm in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$50.00, \$20.00 for children under 12. DJ Sergio Xhoxhi will be playing Albanian music all night! A buffet dinner and continuous dancing are included! BYOB. Please contact Nilda Salavachi for tickets.



**Commemorations for the Living:** Sergio Georgi (50<sup>th</sup> birthday), 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, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Philip Kosta, Andigoni Steffa, Anna Laska, 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 26<sup>th</sup> Kosta Family in memory of Phil – 40 days

March 5<sup>th</sup> Pandora Bendo

**March 12<sup>th</sup> OPEN DATE – NO SPONSOR**

March 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday school

March 26<sup>th</sup> Sergio & Colleen Xhoxhi

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> OPEN DATE – NO SPONSOR**

**Upcoming Events:**

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Forgiveness/Cheesefare/40 Day Memorial Phil Kosta

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Great Lent begins

Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> Women's Day Celebration/Dance 6 pm – 11pm

Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm

March 19<sup>th</sup> Semi-annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour

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

Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am followed by Lazarus Saturday Retreat

April 9<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday – Rose Adams and her family sponsor the Pancake Breakfast in Memory of Charlie