

The Weekly Messenger – February 5, 2017

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 Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Presentation of Christ: This feast, celebrated on February 2, is known in the Orthodox Church as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Another name for the feast is The Meeting of our Lord. Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians call the feast, The Purification of the Holy Virgin. About 450 AD in Jerusalem, people began the custom of holding lighted candles during the Divine Liturgy of this feast day. Therefore, some churches in the West refer to this holy day as Candlemas. The Feast of the Presentation concludes the observances related to the Nativity of Christ, a period that opened on November 15 with the beginning of the Nativity fast.

http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/presentation/index.html

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (February 5th) is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

<http://lent.goarch.org/publicanpharisee/learn/>

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. Father Brooks would like to visit all of our parishioners. 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

The Women's Day Celebration and Dance: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 6:00 – 10:00 pm in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$50.00, \$20.00 for children under 12. A buffet dinner and continuous dancing are included! Please contact Nilda Salavachi trustee.nilda@stjohnsphilaorg for tickets or other information.

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: We have many open dates in the coming weeks. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet and pick a date!!!

February 5th Soup-er Bowl Sunday

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 *No Sponsor*

Upcoming Events:

Feb 12th Sunday of Prodigal Son

Feb. 19th Meatfare Sunday

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

2017 Pledge cards are available at the Candle Stand. You can also go online to <http://www.stjohnsphila.org> to make your pledge. We gladly accept credit card donations online as well as payments made automatically from your checking account. Thank you to those who have made their 2017 pledge.

February Namedays: Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar! 2nd Meeting of our Lord (Panajoti), 3rd St Simeon the God Bearer, 5th Martyr Agatha, 10th Hieromartyr Haralambos, 18th Leo, Pope of Rome

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

Monthly giving for February: Paper Napkins