

The Weekly Messenger – February 11, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday) The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end. All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday.

Soup-er Bowl Sunday: Gets better each year! Thanks to everyone who made soup, helped set up, served the soup and cleaned up on Super-Bowl Sunday. We have an awesome crew! The event raised \$476.00, which will be donated to a charity. Special *Thanks* to Linda Biando for starting this wonderful event and for making sure things run smoothly each year!

Commemorations for the Departed: Katherine Halkedis, Pandora Bendo, Susan Thomas, Steven DiStefano, Larry Jance, James Pandeli, Charlie Daka, Nico Mallozzi, 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: Joseph Urquhart, Sara, Craig Risley, Wayne Merkle, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Great Lent begins Monday, Feb 19th. We will have Pre-sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday nights beginning Feb 21st @ 7:00pm., Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and discussion will be held in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy.

The Women's Day Celebration and Dance: Will be here before you know it! Saturday, March 3, 2018, 5:00 – 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! Soda & coffee will be provided BY.O.B. Please visit our website to register or contact Nilda Salavachi trustee.nilda@stjohnsphila.org for tickets or other information.

Home Blessing/Visitation: The sign-up sheet is located in the side vestibule. You may pick a date and time that is convenient and sign up on the sheet or you may contact Father Brooks directly to arrange a date for him to visit: fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org or call 215-992-9234

Coffee Hour Sponsors: *Please check the sign-up sheet in the vestibule and pick a date!*

February 11th Tarazi-Chanoine Family

February 18th Vita Bigo & Elviro Gusho

February 25th OPEN DATE No Sponsor

March 4th OPEN DATE No sponsor

March 11th OPEN DATE No sponsor

Upcoming Events:

Feb 11th Meatfare Sunday,

Tuesday Feb 13th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Feb 18th Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday

Feb 19th Lent begins,

Wednesday, Feb 21st PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY 7:00 pm

Feb 25th Sunday of Orthodoxy

Saturday, March 3rd – Annual Women's Day Dance – all invited!

March 11th 3 Year Memorial Flossie Vissar

Saturday, April 28th Paint Event Social

Your 2018 Pledge: Pledge cards are available at the Candle Stand. You can also go online to <https://stjohnsphila.org/pledge.html> 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 2018 pledge.

Monthly giving for February: Paper Napkins

If you have news for the messenger please send it to info@stjohnsphila.org