

The Weekly Messenger – January 28, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: II Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee **Beginning of the Lenten Triodion**
Commemorated on January 28

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins. Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances. The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

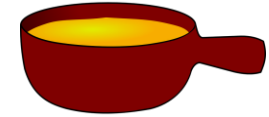
Presentation of Christ: This feast, celebrated on February 2, is known in the Orthodox Church as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Another name for the feast is The Meeting of our Lord. Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians call the feast, The Purification of the Holy Virgin. About 450 AD 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

Commemorations for the Departed: Pandeli (Paul) Spiro, Steven DiStefano, Jim Pandeli, Larry Jance, 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: Pandora Bendo, Craig Riskey, Wayne Merkle, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Soup-er Bowl Sunday: Please get your crock pots and soup pots ready!!!!
NEXT WEEK we will have our 5th Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb. 4th following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking our parishioners to donate a homemade soup. We will offer the soup at coffee hour for a small donation. The proceeds will be donated to charity. A Sign-up sheet is located at the candle stand. This is a soup-er fun event. We encourage all to attend and bring a friend!!



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.

Save the Date: Our first Paint Event Social will be **Saturday, April 28th at 4pm** in our fellowship hall at St. John Chrysostom. You will get a chance to socialize with your fellow parishioners, enjoy a glass of wine, light appetizers and most importantly you get to paint and keep your own work of art. Non-church members are also welcome and their invitation is encouraged. We can introduce them to our church and other fellow members. Tickets are \$30 per person and all proceeds will go to the church. Please contact Fiori Papa or Michele Lorimer for more information.

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

January 28th Spiro-Coraluzzi Families in memory of Paul (40 days)

February 4th Soup-er Sunday

February 11th OPEN DATE – No sponsor

February 18th OPEN DATE – No sponsor

Upcoming Events:

Jan 28th 40 Day Memorial Pandeli Spiro

Feb 4th 2018 Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Feb 11th Meatfare Sunday, **Feb 18th** Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday

Tuesday Feb 13th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Feb 19th Lent begins, **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

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