

The Weekly Messenger – March 11, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/03/19/14-3rd-sunday-of-great-lent-veneration-of-the-cross>

Semi Annual Parish Meeting: March 18, 2018 during coffee hour. Parish business to be discussed: Building update, Church Finances, Social Activities, selection of delegates for Archdiocesan Assembly July 23 – 27, 2018 in St. Louis, MO. The Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly will be held in conjunction with the OCA All American Council. <https://oca.org/history-archives/aacs/the-19th-all-american-council>

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: *Wednesday Evenings March 14, 21, 28,* Presanctified Liturgy @ 7:00 pm. Followed by potluck dinner and discussion.

Parishioner News: Please keep Betty Subashi in your prayers. Betty had her 2nd knee surgery 2 weeks ago. She is home recovering and hope to return to church soon! Congratulations to Kristin Cosmo and Stephen Krygier on their engagement. Kristin is the daughter of +Michael Cosmo and Donna Dimitri. Best wishes and many years to the happy couple.

Commemorations for the Departed: Ernie Douris (3 years), John Gulowacz, Katherine Halkedis, Susan Thomas, 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: Father Dimitrie Vincent, Betty Subashi (knee surgery), Brenda, Dolly Seiler, 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.

Photos from the FABULOUS Women's Day Celebration are on the website <https://stjohnsphila.org/photos.html> Many thanks to all who attended. Special thanks to Nilda Salavaci & her family, Sergio Xhoxhi & his family, Bill Bortner and Donna Dimitri & her family for putting the event together. Everyone had a wonderful time and \$3400.00 was raised for St. Johns.

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

March 11th Petraq Xoxe

March 18th Vissar Family in memory of Flossie

March 25th Jerry & Laura Hall

April 1st Annual Pancake Breakfast

April 8th Pascha – no coffee hour

April 15th open date no sponsor

Sunday school News: An ice skating outing is scheduled March 25th, 2018 from 1:00 to 2:30 at the U of P Class of 23 Rink. The Sunday school will pay for the outing using the money they earned from their fundraising activities. Sunday school director Steve Coraluzzi may be e-mail sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org for more information.

Upcoming Events:

March 11th Veneration of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

March 18th 3 Yr Memorial Flossie Vissar/Semi-annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour

March 25th ANNUNCIATION

Annual Sunday school ice skating 1:00-2:30 pm at the University of Penn Rink - Always a fun time! SAVE THE DATE!

March 31st Divine Liturgy followed by the Sunday School Lazarus Saturday Retreat 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

April 1st Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Tuesday, April 3rd Holy Tuesday - Bridegroom Matins 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 4th Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 5th Holy Thursday - 12 Gospels 7:00 pm

Friday, April 6th Holy Friday – 10:00 am Decorate the Epitaph ion,

5:00 pm Vespers (Taking Down from Cross), 7:00 pm Funeral

Saturday, April 7th Saturday - Liturgy 9:00 am, Matins/Nocturne/Liturgy beginning 11:00 pm

Sunday, April 8th Paschal Agape Vespers - 1:00 pm - no coffee hour after Vespers

Saturday May 19th Buddy Walk with the Melnik Family

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.

March giving: single ply toilet tissue