

The Weekly Messenger – March 25, 2018
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: Hebrews 2:11-18 Gospel: Luke 1:24-38

Annunciation: “Today is revealed the mystery...” Every year during Great Lent, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos on March 25. This beautiful “festal interlude” allows us to again marvel before the great mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. At His conception “without seed” the “Word became flesh.” He will be born in nine months time, but the actual incarnation is marked when He entered the womb of the Virgin Mary—when she was “overshadowed” by the Holy Spirit. Since her Son is the pre-eternal Son, Word and Wisdom of God, she becomes the *Theotokos*—literally, the “God-bearer”. In an extraordinarily fine passage, the 14th century Saint Nicholas Cabasilas explains the role, not only of the Holy Trinity in this great mystery, but also that of the Theotokos, thus revealing to us the meaning of *synergy*, or of cooperating with God.

Feast Days are not just theological ideas. They are days of worship, because it is in worship that we actualize and participate in the reality being commemorated: “Today is revealed the mystery that is from all eternity” we sing on the Great Feast of the Annunciation. We celebrate the Feast Days of the Church liturgically so that we can gather as the Body of Christ and rejoice together over the saving events that manifest God’s mercy and grace to the world. On this feast let us praise God for the awesome mystery of the Incarnation.

<https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/annunciation-today-is-revealed-the-mystery>

Only 1 Remaining Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: *Wednesday Evening – March 28*, @ 7:00 pm. Followed by potluck dinner and discussion.

Commemorations for the Departed: Greg Costa (10 yrs), Nick Naum (5 yrs), Annie Dimitri (3 yrs), Flossie Vissar (3 yrs), Peter Mallios (2 yrs), Katherine Halkedis, 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 Brenda Cantwell, 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.

March giving: single ply toilet tissue

Nick Naum Scholarship Applications are being accepted. The applications must be submitted by June 1, 2018. Information is available on our website <https://stjohnsphila.org/scholarship.html> or by emailing nnscholarship@stjohnsphila.org or see a member of the Nick Naum Scholarship committee in church: Fr. Brooks, Diane Coraluzzi, Carolyn Dardaris, Sandi Fiss, Stephanie Kosta, Nicole Ferrara, Reem Tarazi, Donna Dimitri

NEXT SATURDAY - Lazarus Saturday March 31, 2018, Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am followed by the Sunday school retreat. We will have crafts, religious education and of course Meshe making! Contact Steve C. sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org

Coffee Hour Sponsors: *Please check the sign-up sheet in the vestibule and pick a date or visit our website and signup online:* <https://teamup.com/ksqta3sqv6k1qvr2o7>

March 25th Jerry & Laura Hall

April 1st Annual Pancake Breakfast

April 15th Donna Dimitri

April 8th Pascha – no coffee hour

April 22nd Betty Subashi (10 yrs Andy)

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. <https://stjohnsphila.org/registration.html>

Upcoming Events:

March 25th ANNUNCIATION

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

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 10:00 am, Matins/Nocturne/Liturgy beginning 11:00 pm

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

Saturday, April 28th Paint Event 4:00 pm

Saturday May 19th Buddy Walk with the Melnik Family