

The Weekly Messenger – February 10, 2019
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979 or fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org
Website: <https://www.stjohnsphila.org>
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: II Timothy 2:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday of Zacchaeus: At this Sunday's eucharistic Liturgy, we will hear the story of the towering figure of Zacchaeus the publican [Luke 19:1-10]. This is one of the many wonderful paradoxes of the spiritual life that characterize the Holy Scriptures. The paradox is found in the fact that the "towering" figure of Zacchaeus was actually "small of stature" [verse 3]. And if indeed he had defrauded his neighbors as he alluded to [verse 8], then he was "small" in even more essential matters. Through repentance, conversion, and right action Zacchaeus grew in stature right before the eyes of those who with faith could "see" this transformation.

Zacchaeus personifies the type of change that is possible through hearing the Good News and embracing it in thought, word and deed. This passage, unique to the Gospel according to Saint Luke, is thus perfectly placed as the first announcement of the approach of Great Lent, for in the Orthodox Church, this is always the prescribed Gospel reading for the fifth Sunday before the start of Great Lent. The four pre-Lenten Gospel readings to follow will then guide us to Monday, March 11, the first day of the Lenten journey that will lead us to Holy Week and then Pascha on April 28.

<https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/a-zacchaeus-moment>

Soup-er Bowl Sunday: We had a wonderfully delicious day filled with soup and fellowship! Thank you so very much to our soup makers: Linda Biando, Susan Melnik, Donna Pappas, John Cokos, Albana Qendro, Michelle Sarkos, Donna Dimitri, Traci Cosmo, Diane Coraluzzi, Janice Leyden, Christine Dardaris, Michele Lorimer, Zhaneta Dhandili, Tatjana Plesati Luiza Salavaci, Carolyn Dardaris. Special thanks to Linda Biando for organizing this terrific fundraising event. Many thanks to those who helped setting up and cleaning up. \$489.00 was donated for the various soups. We will donate \$250.00 to the Sunday Breakfast Mission and \$250.00 to the Chosen 300 Group.

Home Blessing/Visitation: The sign-up sheet is located at the candle stand for February & March visitations. 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

Monthly giving for February: a box of Tissues

Parishioner News: Janice & Mike Leyden's granddaughter, Grace McHugh, is raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, which strives to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma. The Society assists those stricken with these diseases and extends support services to their families. If you would like to make a donation please see Janice or Mike or visit:

<https://events.ils.org/epa/phillysoy19/graceandpaigeforchange#home>

Commemorations for the Departed: Katherine Halkedis (1yr.), Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email info@stjohnsphila.org*

Commemorations for the Living: Archbishop Nikon, Ensign Zach Dardaris, Marion Merkle, Tala Ayyad, Diane Mallios, Rose Adams, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Sara, 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

The Women's Day Celebration and Dance: Saturday, March 2, 2019, 6:30 – 10:30 pm in the Church Hall. A buffet dinner and continuous dancing are included! Soda & coffee will be provided BY.O.B. Tickets are \$55.00 for adults and \$25.00 for children under 12. We are collecting money and taking names for reservations. Don't wait until the last minute! Please visit our website to register or contact Nilda Salavachi treasurer@stjohnsphila.org for tickets or other information.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Feb 23rd Vespers 5:00 pm

March 2nd Women's Day Celebration & Dance 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

March 3rd Meatfare

March 10th Cheesefare

Coffee Hour Sponsors:

Feb 10th Sunday School

Feb 17th, 24th, March 3rd 10th 17th *No one has signed up to sponsor these dates.*

2019 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 2019 pledge. Our goal for 2019 is \$60,000.00. Please help us meet our budgeted amount!

If you have information to share in the Weekly Messenger please send it to info@stjohnsphila.org