

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

*Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21*

**Sunday of Forgiveness/Cheesefare:** As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption. Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ. At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

**Great Lent** begins tomorrow, Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. We will have Pre-sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday nights beginning March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm., Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and discussion will be held in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy.

**Charity & Benevolence Committee News:** will be hosting an event *on Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-vespers*. We will be feeding the local homeless and giving out donated clothing. **We are need of jeans & sneakers/shoes...no matter the condition.** The lunch we will be serving our stockpile of peanut butter & jelly sandwiches (thank you Costina & Florina) and a pasta dish. Food donations of cheese sticks or supermarket gift cards would be greatly appreciated. Everyone is welcome to come and help out...

**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.

*If you have information to share in the Weekly Messenger please send it to [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*

**Commemorations for the Deceased:** Ernie Douris (4 years), Skevos Zervos (Michele Sarkos uncle), 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](mailto: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

**Sunday school News:** An ice-skating outing is scheduled March 17<sup>th</sup> at the U of P Class of 23 Rink. The public skate is from 1:00 to 2:00 The Sunday school will pay for the outing using the money they earned from their fundraising activities. Email Steve Coraluzzi [sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org) to confirm your attendance

**Nick Naum Scholarship Applications:** are being accepted. The applications must be submitted by June 1, 2019. Information is available on our website <http://www.stjohnsphila.org> or by emailing [nnscholarship@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:nnscholarship@stjohnsphila.org) or see a member of the Nick Naum Scholarship committee in church: Diane Coraluzzi, Carolyn Dardaris, Sandi Fiss, Stephanie Kosta, Nicole Ferrara, Reem Tarazi

**Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** Lenten Retreat Annunciation Church Elkins Park, PA

8:30 am matins, 9:30 am Liturgy, Topic of Retreat *Why be Orthodox?*

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** Forgiveness Sunday/Cheesefare

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Orthodoxy & Sunday School Ice Skating Outing

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** Semi-annual Parish Meeting following the Divine Liturgy

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** Baptism of Ergesa Kosova, daughter of George & Ermelinda

**April 27<sup>th</sup>** Baptismal Liturgy Amy Lewis

**April 28<sup>th</sup> (Pascha night)** Chrismation of Zach Smith

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** We need your help and support. There are many open coffee hour dates. Please get together with another family or your own family and sponsor a coffee hour!

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** Michele Sarkos & Family

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School,

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** Kosova Family,

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** John & Debbie Monaghan

**Monthly giving for March - Paper Napkins**