

**The Weekly Messenger – March 24, 2019**

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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*Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12*

**The Second Sunday of Lent** is the commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God's divine glory.

**Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** 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. Click to [read more](#)

**Pre-sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday nights @ 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...

**Upcoming Events:**

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** We will celebrate Annunciation

Semi-annual Parish Meeting following the Divine Liturgy

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

**April 20<sup>th</sup> Lazarus Saturday** Liturgy @ 10:00 followed by Sunday school retreat

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** Palm Sunday - annual Pancake Breakfast

**HOLY WEEK April 24-28**

Holy Wednesday: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (7:00)

Holy Thursday: Reading of the 12 Gospels (7:00)

Holy Friday: Royal Hours (10:00 a.m.); Funeral (Lamentations) 7:00).

Holy Saturday: Baptismal Liturgy (10:00 a.m.) Amy Lewis

Pascha (Saturday evening) - Nocturn, Matins, Liturgy, beginning 11:30 p.m.

Chrismation of Zach Smith

Agape Vespers: Sunday (1:00 p.m.)

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Greg Costa (11 yrs.), Nick Naum (6 yrs.), Flossie Vissar (4 yrs.), Annie Dimitri (4 yrs.), 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

**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

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

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

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

**April 7<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** Pappas/Ferrara Families

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** Annual Pancake Breakfast

**April 28<sup>th</sup>** PASCHA no coffee hour