

The Weekly Messenger – March 3, 2019

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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Epistle: I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Judgement/Meatfare Sunday is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25.31–46). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.

... for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and in prison and you visited Me. For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me (Mt 25).

We are saved not merely by prayer and fasting, not by “religious exercises” alone. We are saved by serving Christ through his people, the goal toward which all piety and prayer is ultimately directed.

<https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/pre-lent>

Home Blessing/Visitation: The sign-up sheet is located at the candle stand for 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

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

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

Monthly giving for March Napkins

Commemorations for the Departed: 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*

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 17th 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 to confirm your attendance

Upcoming Events:

March 3rd Meatfare Sunday/Last Judgement

Tuesday, March 5th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 9th Lenten Retreat Annunciation Church Elkins Park, PA
8:30 am matins, 9:30 am Liturgy, Topic of Retreat *Why be Orthodox?*

March 10th Forgiveness Sunday/Cheesefare

March 17th Sunday of Orthodoxy & Sunday School Ice Skating Outing

March 24th Semi-annual Parish Meeting following the Divine Liturgy

April 6th Baptism of Ergesa Kosova, daughter of George & Ermelinda

April 27th Baptismal Liturgy Amy Lewis

April 28th (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 3rd Mirna & Davit

March 10th Michele Sarkos & Family

March 17th Sunday School

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.