

The Weekly Messenger –April 6, 2014
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Message from Father Brooks: Today we celebrate the memory of Maria Aegyptica (St. Mary of Egypt), so appropriate during Great Lent. She was a runaway at age 12 who became a prostitute, driven by lustful passions. Eventually she changed and used those passions to move toward the Divine. It is a message for all of us during this time that we, too, can make the changes necessary to move closer to God. Peace to all.

Commemorations for the Living: Archbishop Nikon, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, William Scotto, Leteria Dhimitri, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Hugh Ledford, Larry Kosta, Leslie Sochka, Dolly Spiro, Daniel Coraluzzi, Andigoni Steffa, John and Mary Croke, Paula Kosta, Candace Pepenelli, Mac, Kristin Snow, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Francesca Giansante, Flossie Vissar, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all the servicemen and women, especially, Calvin Colclough (Marines–Spain).

Commemorations for the Departed: Metropolitan Philip (Antiochian Archdiocese), Vrisidha Zoto, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Important Dates:

April 6th 1 year Memorial Vrisidha Zoto

Tues April 8th Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

Wed April 9th Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6:30pm Lenten Dinner and Discussion

April 12th Lazarus Saturday, 10 am Liturgy followed by Sunday School Retreat

April 13th, Palm Sunday, Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem- Blessing of the Palms

April 15th Holy Tuesday - Bridegroom Matins 6:30 pm

April 16th Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction 6:30 pm

April 17th Holy Thursday - 12 Gospels 6:30 pm

April 18th Holy Friday – 10 am Decorate the Epitaphion, 5 pm Vespers (Taking Down From Cross), 7 pm Funeral

April 19th Holy Saturday - Liturgy 9:00 am, Matins/Nocturn/Liturgy beginning 11:00pm

April 20th Paschal Agape Vespers - 1:00 pm - no coffee hour after Vespers

Thank you to all of our parishioners who donated paper towels and toilet paper last month!

Sunday School News: Lazarus Saturday Retreat, April 12, 2014, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. We will attend the Divine Liturgy then go upstairs for our retreat. Please contact Sunday school Director, Steve Coraluzzi with questions and to advise if you and your children will attend. Lunch will be provided. <mailto:sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org>

Red Egg Alert: We are requesting our parishioners bring in 6 red eggs to church for Pascha. The eggs will be collected at the candle stand. Red egg dye is also available at the candle stand (\$2.00 per packet); see Steve Ghicondey or George Touros.

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Thank you very much!

April 6th Zoto Family - in Memory of Vrisidha

April 13th Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast – Rose Adams & Family

April 20th Refreshments will be served following the Paschal Liturgy

April 27th Nilda & Spartak Brahillari

May 4th Sunday school hot dog sale

May 11th Betty Subashi – in Memory of Andy

May 18th Diane & Ted Lescas

Friday, April 18, 2014 10:00 am: Helpers needed to decorate the Epitaphios. Please let Diane Lescas know if you are able to be there. Many hands make light work! You may also email chairperson@stjohnsphila.org if you are able to help.

Pledge Update: As of March 31, 2014 we have received 75 pledges totaling \$42,735. Our budgeted amount, approved at our Nov. 1, 2013 meeting was \$62,000.00 Pledge statements will be sent out this week. Thank you to all who have made a pledge.

Reminder: pledge cards are available at the candles stand and also online @ <http://www.stjohnsphila.org/>

Per Shume Vjet Gezuar! April 12th St. Lazarus, April 13th Palm Sunday (Qiriako), St Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome, April 23rd Great Martyr George, April 25th Apostle and Evangelist Mark,

Race for the Cure and the Buddy Walk: Sunday, May 11, 2014. See Donna Dimitri or Linda Biando (Race for the Cure) and Susan or Vlad Melnik (Buddy Walk).

April Giving: Altar Wine Manischewitz Concord Grape

The Final Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Wednesday, April 9th @ 6:30 pm. This past Wednesday we had 20 people attend the Pre-sanctified Liturgy. Lenten pot-luck follows the Liturgy. Why not join us?