

**The Weekly Messenger –March 23, 2014**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1*

**Message from Father Brooks:** On Monday evening we celebrate our first Christmas service. This is the only time during Great Lent that a week day Liturgy is celebrated. We pause for a moment to have a Feast that will prepare us for our later journey toward the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. Think about it: On March 25th - the Feast of the Annunciation - it will be exactly 9 months until the birth of our Lord. May we all celebrate with joy. Peace to all.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Newborn Marisa, Elena & Eduard Papa, Susan Alessi, Steven Alessi, 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 especially, Calvin Colclough (Marines–Spain).

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

**Parishioner News:** The email address previously listed for Kostandin & Oanh Pajcini, was incorrect. They are looking for a nanny for their children. If you or someone you know are interested please contact them @ [kpajcini@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:kpajcini@mail.med.upenn.edu)

Rosemary Notskas continues her rehabilitation at Dunwoody Village, 3500 West Chester Pike, Room 305, Newtown Square, PA 19073. (610) 359-4400. Please keep Rosemary in your prayers.

Lefteria Dhimitri fell and broke her hip. She underwent successful hip replacement surgery and is in Harlee Manor, Room 22a, 463 West Sproul Road, Springfield, PA 19064, 610.544.2200. Please keep Lefteria in your prayers.

**A note of Thanks from the Steffa Family:** for the get well and birthday wishes sent to Andi. She received 230 cards- many from the parishioners at St. John Chrysostom. Andi was blessed with strength and warm weather to participate in Liturgy and celebrate her 90th birthday at Ss. Peter & Paul on Feb 23. Please keep Andi and her family in your prayers.

**Veneration of the Cross:** The Holy Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church has always attributed great significance to the veneration of our Lord's cross. The actual uncovering of the precious cross by the Saint & Empress Helen, the mother of the Saint & Emperor Constantine and the one who secretly raised him in the faith, is remembered on March 6th every year. The cross had been thrown into the garbage heap outside of Jerusalem but basil grew all around it. The date for the September 14<sup>th</sup> feast was determined by the day of the Consecration of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. Finally, because of the miracles and piety surrounding the Cross, it was determined to set aside a Sunday in the midst of Great Lenten journey to remind ourselves that the suffering of the Cross leads to the joy of the Resurrection.

*Written by Deacon Andrew Rubis*

**Important Dates:**

March 23<sup>rd</sup> Veneration of the Cross

**Monday March 24<sup>th</sup> Vespertal Liturgy 6:30 pm**, fast before Liturgy - Pot Luck Dinner following for the Annunciation Feast (no fast on March 25<sup>th</sup>)

**Wed March 26<sup>th</sup> Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6:30pm** Lenten Dinner and Discussion

March 30<sup>th</sup> 1 year Memorial Nick Naum; Semi-Annual Parish Meeting

**Wed April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6:30pm** Lenten Dinner and Discussion

April 6<sup>th</sup> 1 year Memorial Vrisidha Zoto

April 12<sup>th</sup> Lazarus Saturday, 10 am Liturgy followed by Sunday School Retreat

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

April 15<sup>th</sup> Holy Tuesday - Bridegroom Matins 6:30 pm

April 16<sup>th</sup> Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction 6:30 pm

April 17<sup>th</sup> Holy Thursday - 12 Gospels 6:30 pm

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

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

April 20<sup>th</sup> Paschal Agape Vespers - 1:00 pm - no coffee hour after Vespers

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Thank you very much!

March 23<sup>rd</sup> The Haxhistasa Family

March 30<sup>th</sup> Sergio & Colleen Xhoxhi

April 6<sup>th</sup> Zoto Family - in Memory of Vrisidha

April 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast – Rose Adams & Family

April 20<sup>th</sup> Refreshments will be served following the Paschal Liturgy

April 27<sup>th</sup> Nilda & Spartak Brahollari

May 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday school hot dog sale

May 11<sup>th</sup> Betty Subashi – in Memory of Andy

**Semi - Annual Parish Meeting:** Next Sunday, March 30, 2014, during coffee hour. Parish business to be discussed: Religious Education, Church Finances and Social Activities. The agenda is posted on the board in the side vestibule.