

**The Weekly Messenger –March 30, 2014**

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

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

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*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20    Gospel: Mark 9:17-31*

**Message from Father Brooks:** We are deep into Great Lent, and Holy Week and Pascha are just around the corner. The question is: Are we prepared for it? Have we been taking Lent seriously as a way to ready ourselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus. I know I struggle with this preparation. Still and all, let us set our sights on the greatest Feast of the year. Let us ask God to guide us through these last days so we might grow in wisdom as Jesus did. And may we have a blessed (happy) Pascha! Peace to all.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Lefteria Dhimitri, Rosemary Notskas, Susan Alessi, 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), Gregory E. Costa (3/26/2008), Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Important Dates:**

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

**Saint John Climacus**, also known as **John of the Ladder**. On March 30 and on the Fourth Sunday of Holy Lent the Orthodox Church commemorates our Righteous Father John Climacus of Sinai. He is called Climacus due to his authorship of the great spiritual work The Ladder of Divine Ascent. There are thirty Steps of the ladder, which correspond to the age of Jesus at his baptism and the beginning of his earthly ministry. His commemoration is designated by the Church on one of the Sundays of Lent as his life and writings affirm him as a supreme bearer and proponent of Christian asceticism. The ascetic example of this great Saint of the Church inspires us in our Lenten journey. Read more at ([http://lent.goarch.org/saint\\_john\\_climacus/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/saint_john_climacus/learn/))

**Parishioner News:** “First Lieutenant Matthew and wife Krista (Risley/Gjoka) want to thank Father Brooks and all parishioners of St. John Chrysostom for their prayers which brought me safely home from Afghanistan. We appreciate it very much!”

Dhimiter and Entela extend their thanks to the parishioners at St. John for the love, support, cards and prayers that have been sent to them. They are very grateful.

Kostandin & Oanh Pajcini 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)

**Very Important Sunday School News:** Our Sunday school director and teachers are preparing for the Lazarus Saturday retreat, April 12, 2014, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. We need to know how many children plan to attend so we can purchase the appropriate number of crafts and have enough supplies to make Meshe! We also need adults to help. Please contact Steve Coraluzzi @ [sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org](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!

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

**Thank you** to all of our parishioners who have donated paper towels and toilet paper!