

The Weekly Messenger – March 22, 2015

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979

Website: <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>

Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

Tuesday, March 24th Vesperal Liturgy 6:30 pm, no fast Pot Luck following for the Annunciation Feast. **Pre-Sanctified Liturgy:** every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm during Lent. We meet again this Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Lazarus Saturday Retreat: Our Sunday school director and teachers are preparing for the Lazarus Saturday retreat, April 4, 2015, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. We would like 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

Upcoming Events:

March 22nd, Semi-annual parish meeting following the Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, March 24th Vesperal Liturgy 6:30 pm, no fast Pot Luck following for the Annunciation Feast

Tuesday, March 31st Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Saturday April 4th, Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00 am followed by Sunday school Retreat ending at 3:00 pm

April 5th Palm Sunday, Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem- Blessing of the Palms

Tuesday, April 7th Holy Tuesday - Bridegroom Matins 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 8th Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 9th Holy Thursday - 12 Gospels 6:30 pm

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

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

Sunday, April 12th Paschal Agape Vespers - 1:00 pm - no coffee hour after Vespers

Reader Schedule: March 22nd Edward Kokalari, March 29th Michelle Dardaris, April 5th Reader Mark, April 19th Adam Coraluzzi, 26th Kevin Fiss, May 3rd Edward Kokalari

Home Blessing/Visitation: If you would like Father Brooks to visit and bless your home please contact him. 210-461-1956 or email fr.brooks2stjohnsphila.org

Message from Father Brooks: On Sunday, Fr. Steve Siniari will be concelebrating with me at the Divine Liturgy. It will be a pleasure and an honor for me. Fr. Steve has not only been a great friend, but one of the finest priests I've ever known. We wish Fr. Steve and Margot all the best as they head for a new adventure in Florida. Thanks for all you've done, Fr. Steve.....Oh, and keep a pitcher of Margaritas ready for me when I come to visit.

Commemorations for the Living: Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Deacon Michael Sochka, Judy Valliere, Ann Dimitri, Jennie Sapnas, Peter Melnik, Semele Halkedis, Peter Mallios, Elaine Quirias, George Robos, Wayne Merkle, Sophie, Clive & Dhimitri Miller, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Leslie Sochka, Andigoni Steffa, Mary Croke, Candace Pepenelli, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Flossie Vissar, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

Commemorations for the Departed: Father Thomas Hopko, Ernie Douris, Nancy Gregory, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

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/)

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Thank you very much!

March 22nd Ann Gjoka/Linda Notskas

March 29th Vangjel & Margarita Haxhistasa

April 5th Rose Adams and Family in memory of Charlie – Pancake Breakfast

April 19th Jani Mara 3 year memorial of Anastas Mara,

Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of Tom Dimitri

April 26th Fioralba & Ilirjan Papa in celebration of Elisabeth's first birthday & Name Day

May 3rd Betty Subashi in memory of Andy, 7th anniversary of his death

May 10th Sergio & Colleen Xhoxhi

March Giving: Single Ply Toilet Paper