

**The Weekly Messenger –March 17, 2013**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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**Gospel - Romans 13:11-14:4 Epistle – Matthew 6:14-21**

*If you would like to have someone remembered in prayer or in need of a priest please contact Donna Dimitri, Parish Council Chair, [chairperson@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:chairperson@stjohnsphila.org) or 609-685-1651.*

**Commemorations for the Living:** Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Madeline Couris-Guarinello, Jennie Sapanas, Dhimitri Ndrecka, Mary Legidakas, Francesca Giansante, Pandeli Spiro, Rosemary Notskas, Peter Mallios, Katherine Zoidis, Marcena Moore, Nick Naum, Flossie Vissar, Kathleen, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all the servicemen especially, Steven Cosmo (Marines-Romania), Dylan Colclough (Marines-Okinawa).

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Vjollca Ruci, Ngjeline Stefani, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Pastoral Coverage:**

Father Joe Toroney will serve at St. John Chrysostom all of March & April 7th  
April 14 & 21, Father Mark Koczak,  
April 27, April 28, Holy Week & Pascha (May 5<sup>th</sup>) Father Brooks Ledford.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors: Today, March 17<sup>th</sup> Pandora Bendo –Thank You**

March 24<sup>th</sup> Aleko & Valintina Stefani                      April 14<sup>th</sup> Mike & Carolyn Dardaris  
March 31<sup>st</sup> Dorothy Tomassini & Jim Spiro              April 21<sup>st</sup> Betty Subashi  
April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Pledge Update:** Thank you to everyone who has sent in their 2013 pledge card. We are not sending out individual letters this year. A quarterly statement will be sent in April. If you haven't sent in your 2013 pledge card please do so as soon as possible. Reminder: the money we collect from pledges pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the church. Donations made at Christmas, Pascha, Icon and memorial donations are additional donations made by our parishioners and friends. They are not part of your pledge. If you have any questions please contact our parish treasurer, Michele Anderson, [treasurer@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsphila.org) or talk to Michele during coffee hour. Of course we are very grateful for all donations!

**Sunday School Ice Skating:** Going to the Penn Class of 1923 Rink today after the Divine Liturgy. The outing is being sponsored and paid for by the Sunday school using money they made at their fundraisers. All welcome to an afternoon of fun!

**Cheesefare:** On this last Sunday before Great Lent, the last day that traditionally Orthodox Christians eat dairy products until Pascha Easter).

**Forgiveness Sunday:** At the close of this day, in preparation for the Great Fast/Lent, a Vespers service is normally held. At the end of this service, the people seek forgiveness from the Christ by receiving His blessing through the hand of the priest. Since God forgives our sins according to the degree that we forgive others (Lord's Prayer) it is also appropriate at this time and throughout the year to privately seek forgiveness from those whom we may have offended. As we are not able to have a Vesper service this year, it is appropriate (after Divine Liturgy) to quietly approach anyone with whom we had fallen out of fraternal love (aphiladelphia) and ask forgiveness of that person, that the Great Lent might start well on "Clean Monday". (Written by Deacon Andrew Rubis).

**We want to know???** Do you have a family recipe that is special to you? One that makes you happy because it is not only delicious but brings back happy memories of loved ones or happy occasions? If yes, please share it with Linda Biando. Each month we plan to put a great recipe and the story behind it into the website. It can be a recipe that is American, Albanian, or from any other ethnic group. It can be simple, complex, Lenten, a holiday specialty, or just a little something that others are sure to enjoy. Please email your reply to [misslinda@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:misslinda@stjohnsphila.org) or see her during coffee hour.

**Website:** More information about our parish is on our website. Next time you are on the internet go to: [www.stjohnsphila.org](http://www.stjohnsphila.org) Make it a favorite and stay updated by visiting each week.

**Ladies Club:** We are continuing to collect men's clothing, blankets, gloves, coats, jackets pillows for the homeless. Linda Notskas and Steve Ghicondes took all of the previously donated items to park and they were distributed to many grateful recipients. As you begin your spring cleaning please think about those less fortunate than we are and donate your gently used men's clothing and other items to help those in need. Your donations can be placed in the side vestibule at the church. Thank you to those who have made donations.

**March Monthly Giving:** single ply toilet paper and/or paper napkins  
Thank you very much to our parishioners who have made donations!

Pandora Bendo also made the Meshe used today. Thank you Pandora!