

The Weekly Messenger – February 2, 2020
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-19 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple February 2nd commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law. [Read More](#)

Sunday of Zacchaeus (Feb 2nd) The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation. [Read More](#)

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Sue Doukas-Plasari, Katherine Halkedis (2 yrs.), Tranette Ledford (4 yrs.), Paula Dardaris (9 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email info@stjohnsphila.org*

Commemorations for the Living: Roxane Ghicondey, Lee Constantine Elia, Janice Leyden, Lisa Kosta Bowser, Erin Thack, Sara, Paul, Lee Gedremenc, Diane Mallios, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, George Robos, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Memory Eternal: Sue Doukas-Plasari, Sue was a past and very active member of St. John Chrysostom Church - until she moved out of state in 1968. She organized the first Sunday School program and always loved this parish. Sue lived in Arizona at the time of her death and would be happy to be remembered in the commemorations for the departed. May her Memory be Eternal!

Monthly Giving for February: 8 or 16 oz water bottles

Home Blessings: Father Dennis regrets to inform our parishioner due to a medical condition he will not be able to conduct home blessings this year. Father Dennis will continue to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and will be available in the event of a pastoral emergency. We are very blessed to have Father Dennis & Father Gregory serving at St. John Chrysostom.

Parishioner Update: Please keep Roxane & Jim Ghicondey in your prayers. Roxane is recovering from recent knee surgery. We hope to see Roxane and Jim soon!

Janice Leyden is home! She has a long road ahead and is not quite up for visitors yet. A phone call would be welcome – Mike will let you know if she is up for a conversation – as we all know Janice loves to talk on the phone! Many thanks from the entire Leyden Family for your prayers, cards and good wishes.

Sunday, February 16th Michael Gregory (Lay vice chair of the Albanian Archdiocese) and Deacon Spyridon will visit our parish. Michael and the Deacon's visit is partly to establish closer connections between parishes and the Archdiocese, partly to see what is going on in each parish and hear people's ideas/concerns.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America will visit our parish and our sister parish, Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church the **weekend of Feb. 22-23**. We are asking our parishioners to bring something to share at coffee hour – as we do for our Nameday Celebration!

Coffee Hour Sponsors: *if you are sponsoring coffee hour it would be greatly appreciated if you could stay after to assist with the clean-up - thank you!*

Feb 2nd Souper Bowl Sunday

Feb 9th Michele Sarkos & Family

Feb 16th Sunday School

Feb 23rd Parishioners will bring various items (as we do at our Nameday Celebration)

March 1st and 8th No Sponsors

Upcoming Events:

Feb 2nd Presentation of our Lord in the Temple – one of the 12 Great Feast Days

Feb 2nd SOUP-ER Bowl Sunday Bring a pot of soup to share!

Monday, Feb 3rd Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Feb 15th (Saturday) Valentine Day Dance) in lieu of the annual Women's Day dance.

Feb 16th Michael Gregory (Lay Vice Chair of the Albanian Archdiocese) and Deacon Spyridon will visit St. John Chrysostom

Feb 22 & 23 Metropolitan Tikhon will visit our parish and Ss. Peter & Paul

March 2nd Great Lent Begins

March 15th Semi Annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour.

March 25th Annunciation

Thank-you Father Dennis for serving today!