

The Weekly Messenger – March 28, 2021
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-563-0979
Website: <https://stjohnsphila.org>
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Upcoming Events:

March 28 th Gregory Palamas	Wednesday March 31 Pre-Sanctified 7:00p
April 4 th Veneration of the Cross	April 11 th St. John Climacus
April 14 th Pre Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm	
April 18 th St Mary of Egypt	April 24 th Lazarus Saturday 10 am Liturgy
April 25 th Palm Sunday	April 28 th Holy Unction 7:00 pm
April 30 th Holy Friday-7:00p Lamentations	May 2 nd Holy Pascha 11:30 pm Sat May 1st

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: As we already have seen, the eucharistic Divine Liturgy is not celebrated in the Orthodox Church on lenten weekdays. In order for the faithful to sustain their lenten effort by participation in Holy Communion, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served. The service is an ancient one in the Orthodox Church. We officially hear about it in the canons of the seventh century, which obviously indicates its development at a much earlier date.

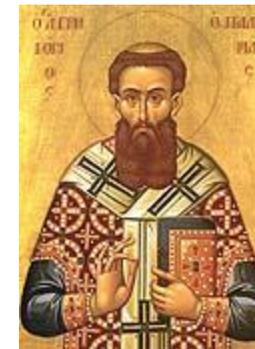
On all days of the holy fast of Lent, except on the Sabbath, the Lord's Day, and the holy day of the Annunciation, the Liturgy of the Presanctified is to be served (Canon 52, Quinisext, 692).

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is an evening service. It is the solemn lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the eucharistic gifts at the presanctified liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, unless, of course, the feast of the Annunciation should intervene; hence its name of "presanctified."

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served on Wednesday and Friday evenings, although some churches may celebrate it only on one of these days. It comes in the evening after a day of spiritual preparation and total abstinence. The faithful who are unable to make the effort of total fasting because of weakness or work, however, normally eat a light lenten meal in the early morning. Read more [HERE](#)

Join us on Wednesday, March 31st @ 7:00 pm as we celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Those who feel comfortable will go upstairs to the church hall and will enjoy a socially distanced Pot Luck meal!

The Second Sunday of Lent is the commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God's divine glory



Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Metropolitan Theodosius, the 547,000 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Charles Burdumy, Diane Mallios, Jorgaq Lico, Florence Vissar (5 yrs.), Nick Naum, (8 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord. *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: Health care workers, First responders, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Archbishop Anastasios, Bishop Daniel, Father Gregory Dudash, Jani Xhoxhi, Dorothy Tomassini, Marge Nowmos, Peter Dimitri, Christina Murianka, Linda Turner, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey's Mother), Joyce & Maurice Robert (Christine Dardaris' Mom & Dad), Jim Ghicondey, Lisa Kosta Bowser, Lee Gedremenc, Evangeline Prifti, Virginia Daka, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Parishioner News: Jani Xhoxhi had surgery this week. He will hopefully return home this weekend to continue his recovery. Please keep Jani and his family in your prayers. We reported the repose of 3 long time St. John Chrysostom's parishioners this week. Chuck Burdumy, Diane Mallios and Jorgaq Lico. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Semi-Annual Parish Meeting: was held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 24th. Members of Parish Council, Auxiliary Council and R. Ghicondes attended. Church finances were reviewed and delegates chosen to attend the Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly in September.

Saturday, April 24, 2021 we plan to have a Sunday school Lazarus Retreat. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 am followed by activities in the church hall. Masks will be required and we will socially distance. There is PLENTY of room in the church hall to accomplish this. The kids will make Meshe and there will be a few other activities. It will be a good way to "get back to church"! Please let Sunday School Director, Steve Coraluzzi know that you will attend: sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org

Palm Sunday April 25th: We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am. Palms will be distributed! We were not able to gather together to celebrate Christ's Entry into Jerusalem last year due to Covid-19. Please plan to attend this year!

