

The Weekly Messenger – March 8, 2020
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-563-0979
Website: <https://www.stjohnsphila.org>
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51

First Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy: Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. The first Sunday is called the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. “This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith” (1 Jn 5.4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, “created in the image and likeness of God” (Gen 1.26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God’s living image.

Thank you to our parishioners who have made a pledge for 2020. We have posted our Pillars of St. John in the side vestibule. You can make your 2020 pledge by visiting our website <https://stjohnsphila.org/pledge> or submit a card at the candle stand.

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Sara Dimitri, Paula Kosta (3 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: Newborn Kyrie Amarii, Alexa, Andrew, Linda Kosta, Dorothy Tomassini, William Rubis, Roxane Ghicondey, Lee Constantine Elia, Janice Leyden, William, Lisa Kosta Bowser, Erin Thack, 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.

Parish News: Please keep Dorothy Tomassini and Linda Kosta in your prayers. Dorothy was hospitalized and went to rehab following a mini stroke. She is scheduled to go home on March 7th. Linda had a surgical procedure and is recovering at home. We pray for their speedy recovery and return to church!

Welcome to our visitors. Our church community thanks you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us. We invite you to join us for coffee hour and fellowship in the church hall following the Divine Liturgy.

Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: This Wednesday 8 people attended the Presanctified Liturgy. It was a beautiful Liturgy! We are wondering if we have the Presanctified Liturgy on Friday would more people be able to attend? Please email info@stjohnsphila.org if Friday would be a better day or speak to a member of Parish Council.

Semi Annual Parish Meeting Next Sunday March 15, 2020 during coffee hour. Parish business to be discussed: Bishop and Priest update, Building update, Church Finances, Social Activities, selection of delegates for Archdiocesan Assembly Sept 24 – 26 Worcester, MA.

Lazarus Saturday: We are in the process of planning our Lazarus Saturday retreat on Saturday, April 11th. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 am followed by the retreat. We will make Meshe, prepare the palms for Sunday, make palm crosses and other activities. All are welcome to attend. We would like to get a count so we have enough supplies. Please email sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org if you will be there.

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! Thank you to our sponsors.*

March 8th Christine & Greg Dardaris

March 15th Stephanie Kosta

March 22nd Betty Subashi

March 29th No Sponsor

Upcoming Events:

Wednesdays, March 11, 18, April 1 & 8 Presanctified Liturgy @ 7:00 PM

March 15th Semi Annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour.

March 22nd Veneration of the Holy Cross

WEDNESDAY, March 25th Annunciation Vespers Liturgy @ 7:00 pm instead of Presanctified Liturgy

April 5th Clergy Brotherhood Service @ 4:00 pm @ St. John Chrysostom

Saturday April 11th Liturgy and Lazarus Saturday Retreat 10:00 am

Holy Wednesday, April 15th Holy Unction 7:00 pm

Holy Friday April 17th Funeral (Lamentations) 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday April 18th Liturgy @ 10:00 am

April 18th Pascha (Saturday evening) - Nocturn, Matins, Liturgy, beginning 11:30 p.m.

April 19th Sunday - during the day, NO SERVICES @ St. John Chrysostom

Monthly Giving for March: paper napkins. *Thank you for serving today Father Gregory!*