The Weekly Messenger – February 6, 2022 St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church 237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-563-0979 Father Giorgi Tskitishvili 914-888-4221

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Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:9-15 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Upcoming Events:

Feb 6th Sunday of ZacchaeusMonday, Feb. 7th Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pmFeb 13th Sunday of the Publican & the PhariseeFeb 20th Sunday of the Publican & the PhariseeFeb 27th Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare)March 6th Forgiveness/Cheesefare SundayMarch 13st 1st Sunday of the Great Fast – Sunday of OrthodoxyMarch 20th Sunday of St. Gregory PalamasMarch 20th Sunday of St. Gregory PalamasMarch 27th Veneration of the CrossApril 10th St Mary of EgyptApril 10th St Mary of EgyptApril 17th Palm SundayApril 24th Holy Pascha

Coffee Hour

Feb 6th Parish Council, Feb 13th, 20th OPEN DATES Feb 27th Teri Douris in memory of George

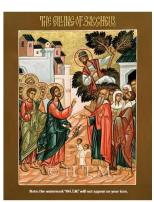
If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour in 2022, please visit <u>SponsorCoffeeHour</u> Or sign up on the sheet in the side vestibule. Thank you to those who have already signed up.

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon the 897.400 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Bessie Satir (1 yr.), Tranette Ledford (6 yrs.), Paula Dardaris (11 yrs.), Minella Zoto (18 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Commemorations for the Living: Health care workers, first responders, those suffering from the Covid-19 virus, Archbishop Anastasios, Dorothy Tomassini, Betty Subashi, Virginia Daka, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

The Family of Bessie Satir wanted all to know they wanted to have a memorial service for Bessie on the first anniversary of her death, however due to ongoing concerns about Covid they elected to postpone the memorial and luncheon. It will be rescheduled in the near future. May Bessie's Memory be Eternal!

Sunday of Zacchaeus: At this Sunday's eucharistic Liturgy, we will hear the story of the towering figure of Zacchaeus the publican [Luke 19:1-10]. This is one of the many wonderful paradoxes of the spiritual life that characterize the Holy Scriptures. The paradox is found in the fact that the "towering" figure of Zacchaeus was actually "small of stature" [verse 3]. And if indeed he had defrauded his neighbors as he alluded to [verse 8], then he was "small" in even more essential matters. Through repentance, conversion, and right action Zacchaeus grew in stature right before the eyes of those who with faith could "see" this transformation.



Zacchaeus personifies the type of change that is possible through

hearing the Good News and embracing it in thought, word and deed. This passage, unique to the Gospel according to Saint Luke, is thus perfectly placed as the first announcement of the approach of Great Lent, for in the Orthodox Church, this is always the prescribed Gospel reading for the fifth Sunday before the start of Great Lent. The four pre-Lenten Gospel readings to follow will then guide us to Monday, March 11, the first day of the Lenten journey that will lead us to Holy Week and then Pascha on April 28. https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/a-zacchaeus-moment

<u>Church Attendance</u> has been rather sparse since the Christmas Pageant - around 30 people each week, sometimes less. We pray with the Omicron variant lessening that more people will feel comfortable attending the Divine Liturgy. We do ask our parishioners to wear mask during the Liturgy. While we have coffee hour in the church hall, it is only if your feel comfortable coming upstairs. Everyone must do what is best for their family!

<u>2021 Contribution Statements</u> were mailed and emailed. If you have any questions or did not receive a statement, please email <u>treasurer@stjohnsphila.org</u> or call 215-563-0979

Your 2022 Pledge: We are encouraging our parishioners to pledge online via our website: https://stjohnsphila.org/pledge We gladly accept credit card donations online as well as payments made automatically from your checking account. Thank you to those who have made their 2022 pledge. Our goal for 2022 is \$60,000.00. Please help us meet our budgeted amount!

<u>February Namedays: Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar!</u> 2nd Meeting of our Lord (Panajoti), 3rd St Simeon the God Bearer, 5th Martyr Agatha, 10th Hieromartyr Haralambos, 18th Leo, Pope of Rome

<u>Welcome to our visitors.</u> Father Giorgi, the members of our Parish Council, and our church community thank 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.

Monthly Giving for February: paper towels

If you have information to share in the Weekly Messenger please send it to info@stjohnsphila.org