

**The Weekly Messenger – February 6, 2022**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:9-15*

*Gospel: Luke 19:1-10*

**Upcoming Events:**

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Zacchaeus

Monday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee Feb 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare)

March 6<sup>th</sup> Forgiveness/Cheesefare Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> Great Lent Begins

March 13<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast – Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> Annunciation

March 27<sup>th</sup> Veneration of the Cross April 3<sup>rd</sup> St. John Climacus

April 10<sup>th</sup> St Mary of Egypt April 16<sup>th</sup> Lazarus Saturday

April 17<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday April 22<sup>th</sup> Holy Friday

April 24<sup>th</sup> Holy Pascha

**Coffee Hour**

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> Parish Council, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> OPEN DATES

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Teri Douris in memory of George

If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour in 2022, please visit [SponsorCoffeeHour](#)  
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>

**Church Attendance** 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 you feel comfortable coming upstairs. Everyone must do what is best for their family!

**2021 Contribution Statements** were mailed and emailed. If you have any questions or did not receive a statement, please email [treasurer@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsphila.org) 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!

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

**Welcome to our visitors.** 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](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

