

The Weekly Messenger – March 6, 2022

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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Website: <https://stjohnsphila.org> Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Upcoming Events:

March 6th Forgiveness/Cheese fare Sunday 40 Day Memorial for +Marika Sarkos

March 7th Great Lent Begins Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:45 pm

Wednesday March 9th Pre-sanctified Liturgy @ 7:00 pm.

March 13st 1st Sunday of the Great Fast – Sunday of Orthodoxy

1 year Memorial for +Diane Mallios

March 20th Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas 1 Yr. Memorial Jorgaq Lico

Friday, March 25th Annunciation **March 27th** Veneration of the Cross

April 3rd St. John Climacus 40 Day Memorial Joseph Baldowski (Vlad Melnik's Godfather)

April 10th St Mary of Egypt

April 16th Lazarus Saturday

April 17th Palm Sunday

April 22th Holy Friday

April 24th Holy Pascha

Coffee Hour

March 6th Michele Sarkos & Family in memory of her Mother Marika

March 13th Mallios, Contoudis, Callas Families in Memory of +Diane Mallios

March 20th Papa Family in Memory of Jorgaq Lico **March 27th** No Sponsor

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 956,450 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Marika Sarkos (Michele's Mom), Irene Theodore (Jerry Hall's Grandmother), Joseph Baldowski (Vlad Melnik's Godfather), Paula Kosta (5 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, Steve, Dorothy Tomassini, Betty Subashi, Virginia Daka, Charles Fean (Rosemary Detskas brother), and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces. *If you have a name for the commemorations list, please email info@stjohnsphila.org*

Father Dennis will serve Pre-sanctified Liturgy Wednesday night beginning March 9th. @ 7:00pm. We plan to have Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and fellowship in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy. It is a beautiful service and we ask you and your families attend. Additional Wednesday dates will follow.

Thank you, Father Dennis, for serving today.

Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise /

Forgiveness Sunday As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption. Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.



At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Great Lent Begins Monday, March 7th: The season of Great Lent is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is the living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors.

In the Orthodox Church, Great Lent is not a season of morbidity and gloominess. On the contrary, it is a time of joyfulness and purification. We are called to "anoint our faces" and to "cleanse our bodies as we cleanse our souls." The very first hymns of the very first service of Great Lent set the proper tone of the season:

Let us begin the lenten time with delight . . . let us fast from passions as we fast from food, taking pleasure in the good words of the Spirit, that we may be granted to see the holy passion of Christ our God and his holy Pascha, spiritually rejoicing.

Thy grace has arisen upon us, O Lord, the illumination of our souls has shown forth; behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the time of repentance (Vespers Hymns).

It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own.

Parishioner News: It is with sadness we inform you of the repose of Jerry Hall's Yia-Yia, Irene Theodore. Irene's obituary click.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/cleveland/name/irene-theodore-obituary?id=33293745> Please keep Jerry, Laura, Theo and their family in your prayers.