

**The Weekly Messenger – December 4, 2016**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979  
Website: <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>  
Email address: [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17*

**It is with sadness** we announce the repose of +Sophie Harrington, on Nov 29, 2016. Sophie was the sister of John, Bill & Chris Rubis. May Sophie's Memory Be Eternal!

**Christmas Card Alert:** We are asking our parishioners to send Christmas cards to those who are not able to come to church and those who are ill. If you have someone who could use some holiday cheer, please send us their name & address. A list will be available at the candle stand or you can request the list of names by emailing: [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

**Help the Homeless and those less fortunate than us:** To date we have collected:

Socks	150/goal 300	Mouthwash	6/goal 200
Toothbrushes/paste	186/goal 300	Deodorant	8/goal 200
Soap	145/goal 200	Tissues	2/goal 200
Lotion	145/goal 200	Combs	3/goal 200
Shampoo	66/goal 200	Chapstick	6/goal 200
Conditioner	72/goal 200	Antibacterial	18/goal 200

Please donate travel size, sample size of any of the above listed items. A collections box is located in the side vestibule. Individual care bags will be prepared by the Sunday school students. The bags will be delivered to the Chosen 300 Ministries – a group that assists homeless families – on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Care bags will also be distributed by the senior class in the Logan Circle area. Contact Sandi Fiss with questions.

***Thank you very much to those who have made donations!***

**Attention parents and grandparents:** Please practice singing *Joy to the World, Away in the Manger, Silent Night and We wish you a Merry Christmas* with your children and grandchildren. The one and only practice for the annual Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, following the Divine Liturgy.

**Monthly giving for December:** Your Christmas Donation. A letter will be mailed to your home in the next two weeks.

**Fr. Brooks' sabbatical** - I will be taking December off. I will serve on the 4th of December and be back on the 5th of January. While I am gone, Fr. Emanuel will be the priest in charge. He is really a good priest; please get to know him. Father Emmanuel can be reached at 215-543-2989. Blessings, Fr. Brooks

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Mary Croke, Sophie Harrington, Victoria VerPlanck, Marci Moore (3 years), Gregory Bendo, Kiki Notskas (18 years), Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Alan, Carl, Anna and Zoe VerPlanck, Michele Coraluzzi, Thomas Anderson, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Zoidis, John Kolea, Jr., William Spiro, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Semele Halkedis, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Philip Kosta, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Clive Miller, Kim Burdumy, Andigoni Steffa, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

**Upcoming Events:**

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1 year Memorial for Mary Croke (Linda Biando's Mother)

Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

**SATURDAY** December 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas outing, Lunch & the Philly Pops

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday school Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy  
Santa & Mrs. Claus will visit during coffee hour

**SATURDAY December 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Liturgy @ 6:00 pm

**SATURDAY Jan 7<sup>th</sup>** Baptism of Vanessa, Haley, Mikayla & Nathan Kashari

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 Holy Theophany/ Epiphany is celebrated on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Brooks will bless the water on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Part 1 of our annual Icon Auction

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 Annual Icon Auction – Part 2

Thursday Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Our sincere thanks to all who have or are going to sponsor a coffee hour this year.

December 4<sup>th</sup> Biando Family in Memory of Linda's Mother, Mary

December 11<sup>th</sup> Salavachi Family in honor of Niko's Nameday

December 18<sup>th</sup> Chris Manosis – Chris' Nameday is December 25<sup>th</sup>

December 25<sup>th</sup> No Liturgy we will Celebrate the Nativity Liturgy on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

**Per Shume Vjet Gezuar!** Dec 4 Great Martyr Barbara, Dec 6 St. Nicholas, Dec 12 St. Spiridon, Dec 15 St. Eleutherios, Dec 17 Holy Prophet Daniel, Dec 23 St. Naum, Dec 25 Christmas Day, Sunday after Christmas St. Joseph the Betrothed, St. David the King, Dec 27 St. Stephen the Protomartyr.

**Please return your Icons so we can prepare for our annual auction Jan 8 & 15, 2017**