

The Weekly Messenger – December 13, 2015

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Icons: Our annual Icon auction will be on Sunday, January 10th and January 17th 2016. Please return your Icons by Sunday, December 20th so that we can prepare for the auction. **Jan 10th** Holy Theophany (Epiphany) blessing of water after the Divine Liturgy. As in the past we will distribute Holy Water in small bottles.

Sunday school: The students and teachers are working on the Christmas Pageant, which will be presented on Sunday, December 20th following the Divine Liturgy.

Christmas Ornament Fundraising Event: The Sunday school is selling beautiful Christmas ornaments for \$10.00 each. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase a beautiful ornament for your Christmas display. Available at the bookcase in the church hall.

A very big Thank You! to all who donated money last week for the purchase of travel size toiletries for the homeless shelters. Sandi Fiss is co-coordinating this donation drive and will take the items to local homeless shelters. Sandi will use the money collected to purchase small size, shampoo, soap, lotion, etc. Please see Sandi if you would like to donate toiletries or money to purchase them.

Cat looking for a home: She is 2 years, fixed, and has all of shots. She also comes with her toys, little and litter box, a cat perch, and a large bucket of dry food, and some wet food. Contact Vitali <mailto:vitalidedkov@gmail.com> or call 609-685-1651.

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

Commemorations for the Living: Archbishop Nikon, Pope Francis, Betty Subashi, Betty Ledford, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Susan, Philip Kosta, Margarita, Tranette Ledford, Peter Melnik, Peter Mallios, Elaine Quirias, George Robos, Clive & Dhimitri Miller, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Andigoni Steffa, Leslie Shocka, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

Commemorations for the Departed: Mary Croke, Kaliopi Bitri (2 years), Marcie Moore (2 years), John, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Upcoming Events:

Dec 20th Chrismation of Bella, Thomas and Olivia Lorimer,
3 year Memorial for Peter Kosta,
Sunday school Christmas Pageant
followed by a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus (a very busy day)

Dec 24th Nativity Liturgy 6:30 pm

Jan. 10th Epiphany and part 1 of the Icon Auction

Jan 17th Part 2 of the Icon Auction

Feb 2016 – date to be determined, Sunday school ice skating outing

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you!!!

Dec 13th Chuck Burdumy

Dec. 20th Kosta Family in Memory of Peter

Dec 27th Sara Dimitri in Memory of Nick

We need sponsors for 2016 coffee hour. The 2016 Coffee Hour Sponsor sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Thank you to Jim Bendo for making the poster!

Ladies Outing: Many thanks to Nilda Salavachi for organizing the ladies outing for lunch and an afternoon performance of the Philly Pop Christmas Spectacular. Lunch was great and the show even better!

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

Readers Schedule: Dec 13th Chris M. Dec 20th Reader Mark, Dec 27th Michele D., Jan., 3rd Adam C., Jan 10th Chris M., Jan 17th Reader Mark, Jan 24th Michele D

Financial Update: It is not too late to make a pledge for 2015! Through November 30th we have received 116 pledges totaling \$65,715.00. Of those pledges we have received \$59,665.00. Our income year to date is \$151,357.88 and our expenses are \$174,354.04 creating a deficit of \$22,996.16. Many thanks to our parishioners who have made a pledge and to our friends who have made donations, your generosity is most appreciated!