

**The Weekly Messenger – November 16, 2014**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
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*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:11-21, 11:1-2    Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13*

**If you would like to have someone remembered in prayer or are in need of a Priest please contact Father Brooks Ledford. He may be reached at 210-461-1956, or you may email him at [fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org)**

**Thank you:** to all of our parishioners who participated in our Parish's Nameday Celebration last Sunday. Our church was filled with love, joy and happiness. Our church hall was filled with delicious food, contributed by our generous parishioners. Thank you all!

**The Flag Day** celebration scheduled for November 29, 2014 has been **canceled**. We are planning a New Year's Eve party. Details to follow.....

**Ladies Club Christmas Dinner:** Tuesday, December 9, 2014 the Ladies will be going to Lancaster for dinner and a show. Tickets are \$49.00. Please contact Nilda Salavachi or Fiori Papa.

**Fall Education Classes:** The Wednesday night series is soon coming to an end: November 19. Last Wednesday, Fr. Brooks talked about the events leading up to Christmas—the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. He explained the genealogy of Jesus as noted in the Gospel of Matthew, which differs from that in Luke's genealogy. Matthew includes the names of several gentile women brought into the people of God: Ruth, Tamar, Rachab and Bathsheba. Learning continues as we eat and commune with each other. The final class will meet Wednesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.

**On 6 December**, the St. Phoebe Center for the Study of the Female Diaconess is sponsoring a conference on this subject at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Fr. Brooks is interested in taking people up for this important retreat. For more information, go to <http://orthodoxdeaconess.org>.

**We are asking for donations** of new or gently used blankets, winter jackets/coats, men's and women's clothing. The collected items will be donated to the homeless in Philadelphia

**Message from Father Brooks:** One often hears the term or concept of "servant-leadership", an important idea. This is precisely how Jesus handled his ministry, and it is incumbent upon the clergy to try their best to emulate this role. Yes, the priest is the spiritual leader of the community; however, the priest is also a servant, reaching out to help, to comfort, to preach the Good News, to teach, to be a friend, and to do whatever he can to serve the people he is leading. As Christians, we are all servants, and as such, we are leaders by example. Peace to all.

**Reader Schedule:** 16<sup>th</sup> Mark Klus, 23<sup>rd</sup> Michelle Dardaris, 30<sup>th</sup> Adam Coraluzzi, December 7<sup>th</sup> Edward Kokalari, 14<sup>th</sup> David Biando, 21<sup>st</sup> Mark Klus, 28<sup>th</sup> Michelle Dardaris

**Upcoming Events:**

Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday school trip to the Franklin Institute  
Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday school Albanian Thanksgiving  
Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Ladies Club Christmas Dinner  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday School Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Nativity Liturgy @ 6:30 pm

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Newly Illuminated Elisabeth Suzana Papa, Newly Illuminated Marisa Papa, Phil Kosta, Christopher Manosis, Sophie, Clive & Dhimitri Miller, Elizabeth Melnik, Katherine Halkedis, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Leslie Sochka, Andigoni Steffa, Mary Croke, Paula Kosta, Candace Pepenelli, Kristin Snow, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Francesca Giansante, Flossie Vissar, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Katherine Kane, Donna Cotto (Linda Biando's Aunt), Margo Craig (Father Stephen's Mother-in-law), Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** All dates have been filled. Thank you very much!  
November 16<sup>th</sup> Janice & Mike Leyden                      November 23<sup>rd</sup> Marsel Kosova  
November 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday School                              Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Salavaci Family – Niko's Nameday  
December 14<sup>th</sup> Donna & Tim Pappas                      Dec 21<sup>st</sup> Bacuta Family

**Sunday School Albanian Thanksgiving:** Next Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, our students will present Albanian Thanksgiving, a tribute to our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents who came to America to find a better life. Plan to attend!

**Monthly Giving:** paper towels. Thank you to those who have donated items throughout the year.