

The Weekly Messenger – December 11, 2016
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
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Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Fr. Brooks' sabbatical - I will return 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

Icons: Our annual Icon auction will be on Sunday, January 8th and January 15th 2017. Please return your Icons by next Sunday, December 18th so that we can prepare for the auction. Additionally, **Jan 8th 2017** - 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 Gertrude Hawke candy has arrived and will be distributed this Sunday. If you placed an order please see Director Steve to pick it up. Extra candy was ordered so if you were not able to place an order you can still purchase and enjoy this delicious candy. Remember - this is a fundraiser for the Sunday school!

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 is available at the candle stand or you can request the list of names by emailing: info@stjohnsphila.org

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 11th. The Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 18th, following the Divine Liturgy.

Our Church was decorated for the Nativity season last Saturday. Everything looks spectacular! Many thanks to Linda Kosta, Greta Dilo, Linda Notskas, Mike & Janice Leyden, Paula Bendo, Marinela Prifti, Michele Lorimer, Chris Manosis, & Donna Dimitri for making our church and church hall look so beautiful.

Monthly giving for December: Your Christmas Donation. You should have received a letter in the mail.

Parish Council: Our 2017 Parish Council met on Tuesday, December 6th. The council members elected the following officers: Chairperson – Donna Dimitri, Vice-Chairperson Janice Leyden, Treasurer – Nilda Salavachi, Secretary – Michele Lorimer, Trustees – Bill Bortner, Jani Mara, Sergio Xhoxhi. Auxiliary members: Linda Biando, Linda Notskas, Dorothy Tomassini. Everyone is welcome to join the Auxiliary Council.

Commemorations for the Departed: Sophie Harrington, Victoria VerPlanck, Kaliopi Bitri (3 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: Father Brooks, Paul Dimitri, Andrea Subashi, 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 18th Sunday school Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy
Santa & Mrs. Claus will visit during coffee hour

SATURDAY December 24th Christmas Eve Liturgy @ 6:00 pm

SATURDAY Jan 7th 1:00pm Baptism of Vanessa, Haley, Mikayla & Nathan Kashari
Jan 8th 2017 Holy Theophany/ Epiphany is celebrated on Jan 6th. Fr. Brooks will bless the water on Jan 8th Part 1 of our annual Icon Auction

Jan 15th 2017 Annual Icon Auction – Part 2

Thursday Jan 19th 2017 Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Our sincere thanks to all who have sponsored a coffee hour this year. *The sign-up sheet for 2017 is posted in the side vestibule. Thanks Jim Bendo!*

December 11th Salavachi Family in honor of Niko's Nameday

December 18th Chris Manosis – Chris' Nameday is December 25th

December 25th No Liturgy we will Celebrate the Nativity Liturgy on Dec 24th

Parishioner News: *Congratulations* and best wishes to Elena & Eduard Papa who are expecting their second child, a girl, in May 2017. Baby girl Papa will join big sister Marissa. God Bless and Many years to all!

Congratulations to Nicole Pappas Ferrara who is graduating from West Chester University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Congratulations are also extended to Michael Ferrara (Nicole's husband) who is graduating from DeSales College with a dual major in Business & Marketing. Nicole and Michael are the parents of Michael & Alexandra. Nicole is the daughter of Donna & Tim Pappas. Way to go Mike & Nicole!