

**The Weekly Messenger – January 8, 2017**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**GËZUAR VITIN E RI!**

**Greetings and a Blessed New Year to All.** It is good to be back, and I hope all of you had a joyous Feast of the Nativity. I would like to thank Fr. Emmanuel for serving in my place on the four Sundays I was gone. I would also like to thank those who worked behind the scene in my absence. May we all be blessed during the year of 2017, living with hope, love, and faith, as we continue to unite ourselves in friendship and in the life of the Gospel. Much Love. Fr. Brooks

**The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany)** of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God. [http://www.goarch.org/special/listen\\_learn\\_share/epiphany](http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/epiphany)

**Icon Auction** Today January 10<sup>th</sup> Icons 1 – 40 will be auctioned in the church hall during coffee hour. Please come out and support this very important fundraiser for our parish. If you are unable to attend the Icon Auction we encourage you to make a donation in the name of your Patron Saint. Visit our website to see how!  
[www.stjohnsphila.org](http://www.stjohnsphila.org)

**Special Thanks:** To our parishioners who sent Christmas cards to our family and friends who are not able to attend church on Sunday. We received calls from some of those who received the cards and they were Most Appreciative! You made a difference!

**Soup-er Bowl Sunday:** We will have our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking our parishioners to donate a homemade soup. We will offer the soup at coffee hour for a small donation. The proceeds will be donated to a charity.

**Monthly giving for January: Paper Towels**

**It is with pleasure we announce the 2016 Fantasy Football Champions:** Taylor and Father Brooks Ledford. This is their 3<sup>rd</sup> season competing in the league. 2014, last in their division, 2015 1<sup>st</sup> in their division, 2016 League Champions. Congratulations! *The Sportspersons Club donated \$400.00 to our parish.* Thank you!

<u>Standing</u>	<u>Team/Owner</u>
Playoff Winner (League Champion)	Taylor Ledford & Father Brooks
Playoff Place (2nd)	Hot Lockett (Adam Coraluzzi)
Playoff Show (3rd)	Shqiptar Shqiponjas (Rich Detskas)
Playoff Honorable Mention (4th)	Chris Manosis
1st Division Winner	Stafford Infection (Zach & Mike Dardaris)
2nd Division Winner	Skenderbeu (Eldion Pajollari)
3rd Division Winner	Nova Dame (Sean McCloskey Brittany Ghicondey)
4th Division Winner	Taylor Ledford & Father Brooks

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Greg Vrato, Sr., Sophie Harrington, Joe Gjoka (28 years), Evelina Notskas (18 years), Victoria VerPlanck, 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:** New illuminated Vanessa, Haley, Mikayla, Nathan Kashari, their Godparents, Nilda Salavachi & Spartak Brahollari 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, 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.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** We are in need of coffee hour sponsors for 2017.

January 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday School  
January 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday School  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> No sponsor  
January 29<sup>th</sup> No sponsor  
February 5<sup>th</sup> Soup-er Bowl Sunday

**Upcoming Events:**

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  
Tuesday Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm  
Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 Annual Icon Auction – Part 2  
Thursday Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Soup-er Bowl Sunday