

The Weekly Messenger – Dec 16, 2018

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

11th Sunday of Luke: On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

<https://www.goarch.org/chapel/saints?contentid=1111&PCode=11LS&D=S&DT=12/16/2018>

Christmas Card Alert: Again, this year, 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

Commemorations for the Departed: Pandeli Spiro (1 yr.), Mary Croke (3 years), Kristo Joseph, Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email info@stjohnsphila.org*

Commemorations for the Living: Marion Merkle, Tala Ayyad, Donna Pappas, Reader Chris Manosis, Rose Adams, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces

Parishioner News: Two of our altar servers, Kevin Fiss (currently a freshman at Temple University) and Gregory Dardaris (a sophomore at Abington High School) are asking for your help as they raise money for two very worthwhile causes. Kevin is participating in a HootaThon to raise money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Gregory is going to Senegal, Africa to help build an elementary school. He is asking for assistance funding his trip to Africa. Detailed letters are attached. Kevin and Gregory will be happy to answer any questions you have! Please help them as they help others.

Upcoming Events:

Dec 16th 1-year memorial Paul Spiro, 3-year memorial Mary Croke

Dec 23rd Sunday School Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy

Monday - Dec 24th at St. John

5:00 pm Vespers Liturgy, Nativity of our Lord

Tuesday, Dec 25th at *Ss. Peter & Paul Church* 10:00 am Nativity Liturgy

Jan 6th Epiphany and Part 1 of the Annual Icon Auction

Jan 13th Part 2 of the Annual Icon Auction

Christmas Donation: If you are active on Social Media - Facebook, Twitter, please consider making your Christmas donation via

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/270104577186810/2454343557913797/>

Making your Christmas donation in this manner gives us the opportunity for your Christmas donation to be matched via the #GivingTuesday Fund.

Contact Nilda Salavachi with any questions salavacis@yahoo.com

Coffee Hour Sponsors: *THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH TO OUR GENEROUS FAMILIES!!!*

The sign-up sheet for 2019 is posted in the vestibule. Pick a date for next year!!

Dec 16th Biando and Spiro/Coraluzzi families in Memory of Mary (Linda's Mom) and Paul Spiro

Dec 23rd Chris Manosis

Dec 30th OPEN DATE

Jan 6th Sunday school

Sunday school: NEXT SUNDAY, December 23rd, following the Divine Liturgy, the Sunday school will present their annual Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy.

Annual Icon Auction: On of January 6th, 2019, we will hold part 1 of our Annual Icon Auction. *We ask that you return the Icon so that we can prepare for the 2019 Auction.* A list of Icons available for bids will be on our website. Even if you are not able to attend the Icon Auction you can still submit a bid or make a donation in honor of your patron saint. If you bid on an Icon in 2018 and have not made your donation there is still time.