

The Weekly Messenger – Dec 2, 2018

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979 or fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org

Website: <https://www.stjohnsphila.org>

Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

5th Sunday of Luke: Our Lord presents in the person of the rich man those who lose their souls, while in the person of the beggar Lazarus, those who are saved as servants of God.

Each person in this world if he wants to be saved, will suffer many things. The reason for this is because deep within the soul there exists sin, sin which, if God does not cure it, remains unhealed. And yet, many souls will leave this world without having been prepared for the eternal life, despite the struggles they happened to undertake and despite the difficult situations through which they have passed.

The impoverished man of the parable sits there and he observes his entire situation; he lives it and is patient. He does not protest, does not resist, neither does he play the victim. He endures, he plays his part. In just such a way, each soul must pin itself down and endure whatever God permits if she wants to possess the spirit of those people who are saved, as the Lord's parable describes.

The most difficult of all, the most painful, and that which no one wants to endure, is to see himself, to see himself as he truly is. Precisely at the moment that we accept these things simply and humbly, the light of God will descend upon our soul and we will see our complete poverty. It is difficult for a person to endure this. The secret is for us to want to accept our poverty without grumbling, resisting, or complaining. We do not see a trace of bitterness or complaint from the beggar Lazarus.

How much will God wish for each of us to feel and to say at this moment: "The time has also come for me. All of this **irresponsibility** that I have is finished. I submit to God, I surrender to God, I trust in God, whatever I might happen to suffer."

<http://www.orthodoxpath.org/catechisms-and-articles/33969/>

Commemorations for the Departed: Marie Daka, Mary Croke (3 years), Gregory Bendo (5 years), Kiki Notskas (20 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. *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: Donna Pappas, 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.

Upcoming Events:

Dec 2nd 2019 Budget Presentation during coffee hour

Dec 8th Christmas Outing and Luncheon

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 5:00 pm Vespers Liturgy, Nativity of our Lord

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

Jan 13th Part 2 of the Annual Icon Auction

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 2nd Leyden Family

Dec 9th Salavaci Family in honor of Niko's Nameday

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

Dec 23rd Chris Manosis

Dec 30th OPEN DATE

Jan 6th Sunday school hot dog sale

Sunday school: December 23rd, following the Divine Liturgy, the Sunday school will present their annual Christmas Pageant. The most precious kids in the Philadelphia area attend St. Johns and this is a must-see event. Bring your kids, your grandkids, nieces, nephews and your camera. You don't want to miss the pageant.

Annual Icon Auction: On of January 6th, 2019, we will hold 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. Please send a check or go online to PayPal and submit your donation. Thank you!

Per Shume Vjet Gezuar! Dec 4 Great Martyr Barbara, Dec 6 St. Nicholas, Dec 12 St. Spiridon, Dec 15 St. Eleutherios, Dec 17 Holy Prophet Daniel, Dec 23 St. Naum, Dec 25 Christmas Day, Sunday after Christmas St. Joseph the Betrothed, St. David the King, Dec 27 St. Stephen the Protomartyr

Welcome to our visitors. Father Brooks, the members of our Parish Council and our church community thank you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us. We invite you to join us for coffee hour and fellowship in the church hall following the Divine Liturgy.

Monthly giving for December your Christmas Donation

Thank you for the toilet paper donated in November