

**The Weekly Messenger – Jan 13, 2019**

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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*Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17*

**Sunday after Theophany:** Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist. John was a very holy man, and that caused a problem for King Herod's wife. Finally, King Herod had John arrested and put in prison. When Jesus heard that John was in prison, he left Nazareth and went to Galilee. It was a place where not many Jewish people lived. Those who are not Jewish were called "Gentiles." In the Bible, there is a verse that says, "Galilee of the Gentiles--the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." His followers knew Jesus was the light of the world. They thought, Jesus has gone to be the light to the Gentiles, just like the Bible said. The Gentiles will learn from him-- he will show them how to be close to God." <http://www.1.antiochian.org/christianeducation/letusattend>

**Annual Icon Auction:** PART 2 of our Annual Icon 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. Please send a check or go online to our website <https://stjohnsphila.org/donate.html> and select the Donate button. Thank you!

**Vespers Service will Return:** beginning in February, the last Saturday of the month (February 23<sup>rd</sup>) Father Brooks will conduct a Vesper Service at 5:00 pm. The service will be followed by pot luck dinner in the church hall and will feature a guest speaker. Please see Father Brooks for additional details or any questions you have.

**Soup-er Bowl Sunday:** We will have our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb. 3<sup>rd</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. A Sign-up sheet is located at the candle stand. This is a super fun event. We encourage all to attend and bring a friend!!

**Year- end financial totals:** We received 101 pledges (down from 110 last year) from our parishioners, totaling \$51,472. We received \$50,251 through December 31, 2018. We missed our goal of \$60,000 by almost \$10,000. Our Icon Auction and subsequent donations promised \$16,475, of that total we received \$16,360. If you have a balance on your 2018 pledge, it is not too late! We will gladly accept donations in January for 2018 pledges! If you have any questions please contact our treasurer Nilda Salavachi.

**A message from Father Brooks about Home Blessings:** A sign-up sheet is posted on the board near the stairs. There are three different blocks for Home Blessings. The first is New Jersey between now and 17 January. The second block for those in Delaware County, from 11 February to 28 February. The third block is for those living in Northeast Philadelphia and will go from 4 March to 16 March. Those not in these blocks should contact me. I am scheduling Monday through Saturday, all from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Church: 215-563-0979, Home: 215-992-9234 or via email [fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org)

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Phil Kosta (2 yrs.), 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](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Ensign Zach Dardaris, Marion Merkle, Tala Ayyad, Diane Mallios, 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:**

**Jan 13<sup>th</sup>** Part 2 of the Annual Icon Auction

**Jan 18<sup>th</sup> – Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>** Father Brooks on Vacation

**Jan 20<sup>th</sup>** Bob Flanagan and Vladmir Melnik will lead a Readers Typica Service

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>** Father Gregory DuDash will celebrate the Divine Liturgy

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>** Memorial Pandora Bendo 1 year

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>** Soup-er Bowl Sunday

**Tuesday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

**Saturday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>** Vespers 5:00 pm

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** Women's Day Celebration & Dance

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:**

**Jan 13<sup>th</sup>** Marjana Kokalari

**Jan 20<sup>th</sup>** Kathryn Sapnas in memory of George & Jennie Sapnas

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>** Bendo Family in memory of Pandora

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>** Parishioners Homemade Soup will be sold and the proceeds donated to charity

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>** No Sponsor

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup>** No Sponsor

**Holy Water is available:** If you were unable to be in church last Sunday Holy Water is still available. Please bring a container as we used all of our plastic bottles. Many thanks to our Sunday school students and teachers for filling the bottles last week.

**Monthly giving for January: Paper Towels**