

**The Weekly Messenger – December 14, 2014**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
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*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24*

**Father Brooks will be on vacation (with his family in Texas for the Nativity) from December 14<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy, until December 30<sup>th</sup>. Father Stephen Siniari will be available for emergencies. 609-385-3757**

**Message from Father Brooks:** I would like to extend Christmas greetings to all of you. This year, I will be in San Antonio with my family. I look forward to next year when Jamie will be here and we will all be celebrating the Feast of the Nativity together. In the mean time, please know how appreciative I am to all you for your welcoming and loving spirit. I wish you all a blessed and joyous Nativity Season and pray that all of us will focus on that which is truly important. Blessings and Peace to all!

**Icons:** Our annual Icon auction will be on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup> 2015. Please return your Icons by Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> so that we can prepare for the auction. **Jan 4<sup>th</sup>** Holy Theophany (Epiphany), blessing of water after the Divine Liturgy.

**We are asking for donations** of new or gently used blankets, winter jackets/coats, men's and women's clothing. The collected items will be donated to the homeless in Philadelphia. **Thank you** to those who have already made donations.

**Sunday school:** The students and teachers are working on the Christmas Pageant which will be presented on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. Our Director, Sandi Fiss, has everything under control. We look forward to the pageant with our students using the new sound system. Everyone should be able to hear the presentation this year!

**Reader Schedule:** Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Rd. David Biando, 21<sup>st</sup> Mark Klus, 28<sup>th</sup> Michelle Dardaris, January 4<sup>th</sup> Rd. David Biando, 11<sup>th</sup> Edward Kokalari, 18<sup>th</sup> Michelle Dardaris, January 25<sup>th</sup> Mark Klus, February 1<sup>st</sup> Adam Coraluzzi, 8<sup>th</sup> Michele Coraluzzi, February 15<sup>th</sup> Rd. David Biando, 22<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Fiss

**Ladies Outing:** Many thanks to Nilda Salavachi for organizing the ladies outing for dinner and a show, *It's a Wonderful Life*. A great time was had by all!

**December Giving:** Your Christmas Donation. We will send a letter.

**Upcoming Events:**

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Kalioipi Bitri – 1 year memorial  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Deacon Gregory Vrato, Sunday School Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Nativity Liturgy @ 7:00 pm Father Mark Kocak  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Morning @ **Ss Peter & Paul** Nativity Liturgy 10 am  
Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> Father Stephen Siniari will celebrate the Diving Liturgy  
January 4, 2015 Holy Theophany/ Epiphany and part 1 of our Icon Auction  
January 11, 2015 Part 2 of our Icon Auction

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Greg Steffon, Elaine Qurias, Ann Gjoka, Christopher Manosis, George Robos, Wayne Merkle, Sophie, Clive & Dhimitri Miller, Elizabeth Melnik, Katherine Halkedis, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Leslie Sochka, Andigoni Steffa, Mary Croke, Paula Kosta, Candace Pepenelli, Kristin Snow, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Francesca Giansante, Flossie Vissar, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Katherine Kane, Donna Cotto (Linda Biando's Aunt), Margo Craig (Father Stephen's Mother-in-law), Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** All 2014 dates have been filled. Thank you very much  
December 14<sup>th</sup> Donna & Tim Pappas  
December 21<sup>st</sup> Bacuta Family  
December 28<sup>th</sup> Sonja Ponoci & Edlira Tegu

The 2015 Coffee Hour Sponsor sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule and we are looking for sponsors.

**Parishioner Update:** Congratulations Steven Cosmo (son of Donna Dimitri & Michael Cosmo) on his graduation from the Police Academy. Steven is a police officer in Burlington Township NJ. Grigor Lakuriqi has been released from the hospital – he was struck by a vehicle as he was crossing the street- and is home (7807 Fairfield Street, Philadelphia, PA 19152) recovering. Please keep Grigor in your prayers

**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 will be available at the candle stand or you can request the list of names by emailing: [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

**2015 Calendars** are available at the candle stand. Our thanks to Vraim Funeral Home for donating the calendars to our parish.