

**The Weekly Messenger – January 11, 2015**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979  
Website: <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>  
Email address: [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:2-17*

**Icon Auction** Today January 11<sup>th</sup> Icons 41– 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)

**Reader Schedule:** January 11<sup>th</sup> Michelle Dardaris, 18<sup>th</sup> Mark Klus, 25<sup>th</sup> Adam Coraluzzi, February 1<sup>st</sup> Michele Coraluzzi, 8<sup>th</sup> Kevin Fiss  
February 15<sup>th</sup> Edward Kokalari, 22<sup>nd</sup> Michelle Dardaris

**Upcoming Events:**

January 11, 2015 40 day Memorial Marianthi Lacka and part 2 of our Icon Auction  
Tuesday Jan. 13, 2015 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm  
February 1<sup>st</sup> Soup-er Bowl Sunday  
Sunday School Ice Skating Outing - end of March

**Soup-er Bowl Sunday:** We will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking our parishioners to donate their specialty homemade soup. We will offer the soup at coffee hour for a small donation. The proceeds will be donated to a charity. Last year we had 20 different kinds of soup and raised \$350.00, which was donated to Covenant House.

**Our sincere thanks** to our parishioners and friends who made Christmas donations. Also thanks to those who donated poinsettias and helped with decorating the church. The Nativity Celebration would not have been as wonderful without your assistance. Thank you very much!

**January Giving:** Paper Towels Thank you!

**Message from Father Brooks:** We hear in today's Gospel of Matthew, "From that time, Jesus began to preach...". Nothing in Orthodox Christianity happens suddenly. Our life is a process, and this Gospel reading sets the stage for our journey to Great Lent, which itself sets the stage for our journey to Pascha. May we focus on the present moment, but at the same time, look ahead toward what this Great Lent could mean to us if we take the time. Peace to all.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Deacon Michael Sochka, Semele Halkedis, Peter Mallios, Hugh Ledford, Grigor Lakuriqi, Elaine Qurias, Ann Gjoka, 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:** Marianthi Lacka, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Thank you very much!

January 11<sup>th</sup> Kristina Rafaele and family in memory of Marianthi Lacka 40 days

January 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Hot Dog Sale

January 25<sup>th</sup> *open date- need a sponsor*

February 1<sup>st</sup> Soup-er Bowl Sunday

February 8<sup>th</sup>, Greta Dilo - Memory of Afrodhiti Dilo, 6 month

**Last Sunday was very special** as we celebrated the Great Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord by blessing water in commemoration of the Baptism of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Sunday school students and parishioners were delighted to be sprinkled with Holy Water as Father Brooks walked around the church. Holy Water is available in containers and also in Fonts at the front of the church.

**Home Blessing/Visitation:** A sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Father Brooks is asking those who were not visited in 2014 to pick a date for him to visit and bless their homes. If the posted dates are not conducive for a visitation please contact Father Brooks to make other arrangements. It is his hope to visit all of our parishioners.

**Parishioner News:** We are interested in what is going on with our parishioners. If you have news to share please send it to [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)