

**The Weekly Messenger – November 23, 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 Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 12:16-21*

**If you would like to have someone remembered in prayer or are in need of a Priest, please contact Father Brooks Ledford. He can be reached at 210-461-1956 or [fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org).**

**Decorate the Church with us:** Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am, share in the camaraderie as we prepare our church for the Nativity. We would love for parishioners young, older, tall and short to join us!

**Ladies Club Christmas Dinner:** Tuesday, December 9, 2014 the Ladies will be going to Lancaster for dinner and a show. Tickets are \$49.00. Please contact Nilda Salavachi or Fiori Papa.

**Fall Education Classes:** The final session was held on Wednesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those who attended and to Father Brooks for leading the class.

**On 6 December,** the St. Phoebe Center for the Study of the Female Deaconess is sponsoring a conference on this subject at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Fr. Brooks is interested in taking people up for this important retreat. For more information, go to <http://orthodoxdeaconess.org>.

**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:** Sunday, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, Albanian Thanksgiving. Our Sunday school students will present information on their ancestors who came to America in search of a better life for their families. Please bring your children to church this Sunday! The outing to the Franklin Institute was a smashing success. 52 people met for a group photo and then proceeded to explore the institute. Thanks Mr. Steve for organizing this great event. The photos have been posted on our website <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>

**Monthly Giving: PAPER TOWELS.** Thank you to those who have donated items throughout the year.

**Message from Father Brooks:** Today's Gospel reading reminds us that life on this planet is short. Jesus' parable tells us that storing up our riches can, ultimately, be useless. Elsewhere in Scripture we are told that today is the day of salvation. As we approach the beautiful Feast of the Nativity, may we all not get caught up in the frenzy of the Christmas season, but rather, make sure that we are living for today and making sure that our heart and treasure are going to the right places. Peace to all!

**YAL - The Young Adult League** at St. John's got off to a great start Thursday night. We had 11 people, plus myself, as well as a couple of young people from other parishes, and enjoyed good food and a planning session. We agreed to meet one Thursday and one Saturday out of the month. We talked about doing some things for our parish, having prayer and fellowship, and planning some charity events. On Thursday, 11 December, we will meet at the church for prayer and then have fellowship to get to know one another. Please join us.

**Reader Schedule:** Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Michelle Dardaris, 30<sup>th</sup> Adam Coraluzzi, December 7<sup>th</sup> Edward Kokalari, 14<sup>th</sup> David Biando, 21<sup>st</sup> Mark Klus, 28<sup>th</sup> Michelle Dardaris

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Parish Council Meeting 7:-00 pm  
Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 10 am Decorate the Church  
Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Ladies Club Christmas Dinner  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday School Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Nativity Liturgy @ 6:30 pm

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Newly Illuminated Elisabeth Suzana Papa, Newly Illuminated Marisa Papa, Ann Gjoka, Christopher Manosis, 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 dates have been filled. Thank you very much  
November 23<sup>rd</sup> Marsel Kosova                      November 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday School  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Salavaci Family – Niko's Nameday          December 14<sup>th</sup> Donna & Tim Pappas  
Dec 21<sup>st</sup> Bacuta Family                                  December 28<sup>th</sup> Sonja Ponoci & Edlira Tegu