

The Weekly Messenger – November 30, 2014
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16 Gospel: John 1:34-52

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.

Decorate the Church with us: Saturday, Dec. 6th @ 10:00 am, share in the camaraderie as we prepare our church for the Nativity. We would love for parishioners younger, older, tall, short, female and male to join us! Many hands make light work.

Ladies Club Christmas Dinner: Tuesday, December 9, 2014 the Ladies will be going to Lancaster for dinner and a show. The show, *It's a Wonderful Life*, at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater, 510 Centerville Road, Lancaster PA. 17601. Tickets are \$49.00. If you would like to come with us, please contact Nilda Salavachi or Fiori Papa.

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: Many thanks to Sandi Fiss for directing the Sunday school Albanian Thanksgiving tribute. The kids always enjoy paying their respects to their family members who came to America. Next up for the Sunday school; the Christmas Pageant, which will be presented on Dec. 21st following the Divine Liturgy.

Parishioner Update: Alter server, Chris Manosis has moved to Immaculate Mary Home, 2990 Holme Ave. Phila., PA 19136. This is a rehabilitation center and Chris hopes to be released in a few weeks. Chris is most appreciative for the cards he received while he was hospitalized. We are thankful Ann Gjoka is feeling better and hope to see her in church soon.

Albanian Flag Day: November 28 marks the declaration of independence by Albania after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1912. Proclaimed during the National Assembly of Vlora, on that date the flag was officially accepted as the symbol of the independent nation of Albania. We are very proud of our Albanian Heritage!

Message from Father Brooks: In today's Gospel reading, we hear about Nathanael, about whom Jesus said, "Here is truly an Israelite, in whom there is no guile (deceit)". When told of Jesus, Nathanael had said dryly, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" He was honestly skeptical, like Thomas. But he was ultimately open to the truth. During this season, may we all be open to the truth and the miracle of the Nativity of Christ! Peace to all.

Reader Schedule: Nov. 30th Adam Coraluzzi, December 7th Edward Kokalari, 14th David Biando, 21st Mark Klus, 28th Michelle Dardaris

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

Upcoming Events:

Dec 2nd Parish Council Meeting 7:-00 pm

Dec 6th 10 am Decorate the Church

Dec. 9th Ladies Club Christmas Dinner

Dec. 21st Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Dec. 24th Nativity Liturgy @ 6:30 pm

Dec. 25th Christmas Morning @ **Ss Peter & Paul** Nativity Liturgy 10 am

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, Newly Illuminated Elisabeth Suzana Papa, Newly Illuminated Marisa Papa, Greg Steffon, Elaine Qurias, 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 30th Sunday School Dec 7th Salavaci Family – Niko's Nameday
December 14th Donna & Tim Pappas Dec 21st Bacuta Family
December 28th Sonja Ponoci & Edlira Tegu

