

**The Weekly Messenger –December 15, 2013**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle – St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:8-18 Gospel – Luke 14:16-24*

**Congratulations to:** Laura Risley and Matt Jones on the birth of their son, Elijah Joseph; born on November 18th. He was 8lbs 5oz., 20 1/2 inches. Elijah is the little brother of Joshua, the grandson of Joanne & Robert Risley and the great-grandson of Ann Gjoka. May God grant them all many years!

**Commemorations for the Living:** Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Nikon, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Dino Cangelosi, Lisa Costa-Levitsky, Zachary Duck, Daniel Coraluzzi, George Douros, Andigoni Steffa, John and Mary Croke, Paula Kosta, Candace Pepenelli, Mac, Kristin Snow, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Francesca Giansante, Peter Mallios, Flossie Vissar, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all the servicemen especially, Matthew Sherwood (Army-Afghanistan), Calvin Colclough (Marines–Spain)

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Gregory Bendo, Marcena Moore, Angelo Douris, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

*We announce the repose of Gregory Bendo, son of the late Pascal and Sophie. He is the nephew of Pandora Bendo and Jim & Paula Bendo. May Gregory's memory be eternal!*

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Thank you very much! (2014 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet Posted)  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Kosta Family – 1 year Memorial for Peter  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Xhoxhi Family 20 year Memorial  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Nick Dimitri 1 year Memorial  
Jan 5, 2014 Greta & Faut Hyseneshi

**Important Dates:**

December 15<sup>th</sup> 1 year Memorial for Peter Kosta,  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday school Christmas Pageant  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Nativity Liturgy 6:30 pm  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Morning @ **Ss Peter & Paul** Nativity Liturgy 10 am  
December 29<sup>th</sup> 1 year Memorial for Nick Dimitri  
January 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 Holy Epiphany and part 1 of our Icon Auction

**2013 Pledge Info:** To date we have received 120 pledges totaling \$63,310. Of that amount we have received \$52,950. If you have pledged and have a balance please send it in prior to December 31, 2013. Also know it is not too late to make a pledge for 2013. Simply go online <http://www.stjohnsphila.org/memberpledges.html> and click the donate button. Or you can send your pledge donation directly to the church. Thank you so very much to our parishioners who made a pledge in 2013! Icon donations are also being accepted. 2013 Contribution statements will be sent in January. If you would like a copy of your contributions prior to January please email [treasurer@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsphila.org)

**Our Church Christmas Decorations Look Beautiful** Many thanks to Ted & Diane Lescas, Mike & Janice Leyden, Linda Kosta, Michele Lorimer, The Dimitri–Cosmo Family decorating the church. We also thank the following for their donations of Poinsettias for the Altar: Tom Zoidis, Linda Kosta, Stephanie Kosta, Dorothy Tomassini, Betty Subashi and Reem Tarazi. They are exceptionally beautiful!

**Special Thanks to William Bortner** For donating a new ceramic Nativity set (which he also made). The Nativity is displayed on the table at the front left of the church.

**Nativity Liturgy: Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm.** No liturgy at St. Johns on Christmas morning.

Ss. Peter & Paul will celebrate the Nativity Liturgy on 12/25 @ 10:00 am.

**Icons:** Our annual Icon auction will be on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup> 2013. Please return your Icons by Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> so that we can prepare for the auction. **Jan 5<sup>th</sup>:** Holy Theophany (Epiphany) blessing of water after the Divine Liturgy. We will have Holy Water in plastic bottles for all of our parishioners.

**Sunday school:** The Gertrude Hawks Candy has arrived. It will be distributed during coffee hour. If you did not pay for your candy please have a check made out to St. John Chrysostom Church or cash for the balance due. The Sunday school Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. This Sunday is the final practice for the pageant. Please bring your children to church!!

**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. Please check your closets, attics, basements and sheds; you may have items you haven't used in years! Please bring them to church and we will make sure someone less fortunate gets them. Contact Linda Notskas with any questions.

**2014 Calendars** are available at the candle stand. Our thanks to Vraim Funeral Home for once again donating the calendars to our parish.