

The Weekly Messenger –December 22, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle – St. Paul's Second Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 Gospel – Matthew 1:1-25

Message from Father Brooks: It is wonderful to be with my "new" parish family at St. John's for the Christmas holidays this year! My son, Taylor Laurence, is already here. My wife, Jamie and daughter, Scout will be joining us on Christmas Eve. For those who will be travelling or who can't make our church service, have a blessed and safe Feast of the Nativity wherever you are. For the rest of you, I look forward to celebrating the Feast with you on Christmas Eve. Many blessings to all!

Commemorations for the Living: Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Nikon, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Newly Illuminated Theodore, Leslie Sochka, Dolly Spiro, Dino Cangelosi, Lisa Costa-Levitsky, 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: Lina Xhoxhi, Ferdinand Xhoxhi, Vitoria Xhoxhi, Vasil Xhoxhi, 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.

If you would like to have someone remembered in prayer or you are in need of a Priest please contact Father Brooks Ledford. He may be reached at 210-461-1956 or you may email <mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org>

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Thank you very much! (2014 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet Posted)
Dec 22nd Vasil & Greta Xhoxhi & Family 20 year Memorial Lina Xhoxhi (Vasil's Mother)
Dec 29th Nick Dimitri 1 year Memorial
Jan 5, 2014 Greta & Faut Hyseneshi
Jan 12, 2014 Ann Gjoka & Linda Notskas

Nativity Liturgy: Tuesday December 24th @ 6:30 pm.
No liturgy at St. John Chrysostom on Christmas morning.
Ss. Peter & Paul will celebrate the Nativity Liturgy on 12/25 @ 10:00 am.

Important Dates:

December 22nd Sunday school Christmas Pageant
December 24th Nativity Liturgy 6:30 pm
December 25th Christmas Morning @ Ss Peter & Paul Nativity Liturgy 10 am
December 29th 1 year Memorial for Nick Dimitri
January 5th 2014 Holy Epiphany and part 1 of our Icon Auction
January 12th 2014 40 day Memorial Marcy Moore - Icon Auction part 2

Sunday school: Get your cameras and camcorder ready... This Sunday; the Sunday school students will present their annual Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy. Many thanks to our Sunday director, Sunday school teachers and our pageant director, Sandi Fiss for preparing our students for the pageant. Sunday school classes will NOT meet on Sunday, December 29th. Classes will resume on January 5, 2014.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR ICONS: We need to prepare the Icons for the 2014 auction which will be held on Sunday, January 5th and January 12th 2013

Jan 5, 2014: Holy Theophany (Epiphany) blessing of water after the Divine Liturgy. We will have Holy Water in plastic bottles for all of our parishioners.

Special Thanks to William Bortner For donating a new ceramic Nativity set (which he also made). The donation was made in memory of Peter Kosta. Memory Eternal!

Donations for those less fortunate than us: We gratefully welcome donations of new or gently used blankets, winter jackets/coats, gloves, men's and women's clothing. Thank you to those who have made donations. Linda Notskas distributed your donations to the homeless people who live in the area of our church. We will continue to collect items for the next few months. Every little bit helps!

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

Christmas Letter and Magnet: By now you should have received a Christmas letter from Father Brooks. If you did not receive the letter and Nativity magnet, we have extras at the candle stand. Be sure to pick one up!

Sunday school flood update: We are in the process of working with our insurance company in reference to the water situation in our Sunday school. The Sunday school will be cleaned up by the time the students return on January 5, 2014.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Many thanks to our parishioners who make Christmas at St. John Chrysostom so very special. Wishing everyone a blessed and joyous Nativity!