

**The Weekly Messenger – January 31, 2021**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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**Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16 Gospel: Luke 25:14-30**

**Upcoming Events:**

January 31<sup>st</sup> Dolly Seiler 40-day Memorial. (Donna Dimitri's Aunt)  
Steven DiStefano 3-year Memorial (Donna Dimitri's cousin)  
Tuesday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation of our Lord in the Temple  
Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 40 Day Memorial Nick Zoto  
Wed, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> ZOOM Parish Council Meeting  
Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 3 - year Memorial Pandora Bendo

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, Metropolitan Theodosius, the 436,000 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Steven DiStefano, Dolly Seiler, Irene Gedremenc (Bill Bortner's Mom), Kristo Diamanti, Nicholas Zoto, Pandora Bando (3 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*

**Commemorations for the Living:** Health care workers, First responders, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Archbishop Anastasios, Bishop Daniel, Father Gregory Dudash, Dorothy Tomassini, Christina Murianka, William Spiro, Linda Turner, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey's Mother), Joyce & Maurice Robert (Christine Dardaris' Mom & Dad), Jim Ghicondey, Sophia Sarkos (Michele's sister), Lisa Kosta Bowser, Lee Gedremenc, Diane Mallios, Evangeline Prifti, Donna Hlavcek, Virginia Daka, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces

**2021 Icon Auction:** Letters have been sent to those who bid on and received Icons at our 2020 Icon Auction asking if they want to keep the Icons they received. Some Icons have been returned. We will have a list of available Icons and will finalize our 2021 Icon Auction at our next Parish Council Meeting.

**Problems with the U.S. Mail:** If you mailed a check via the U.S. mail to the church in the past few months please check you bank statement to determine if the check cleared. We have been having problems with mail delivery and unfortunately some mail has not been delivered to us. Thank you notes were sent to those from whom we received Christmas donations. If you sent a Christmas donation and did not receive a thank you card please email [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org) or call 215-563-0979 to let us know.

**Meeting of our Lord in the Temple:** Forty days after Christ was born, He was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time as well His mother Mary underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting (or Presentation or Reception) of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna (Lk 2.22–36) is the main event of the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple. It was "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Lk 2.26) and, inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the new-born Messiah, took Him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vespers service:

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel (Lk 2.29–32).*

**Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom:** During the eleventh century, disputes raged in Constantinople about which of the three hierarchs was the greatest. Some preferred Saint Basil (January 1), others honored Saint Gregory the Theologian (January 25), while a third group exalted Saint John Chrysostom (November 13).

Dissension among Christians increased. Some called themselves Basilians, others referred to themselves as Gregorians, and others as Johnites.

By the will of God, the three hierarchs appeared to Saint John the Bishop of Euchaita (June 14) in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God. "There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another."

They ordered that the disputes should stop, and that their common commemoration should be celebrated on a single day. Bishop John chose **January 30** for their joint Feast, thus ending the controversy and restoring peace.

**2020 Contribution Statements** were mailed and emailed this past week. If you have any questions or did not receive a statement please email [treasurer@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsphila.org) or call 215-563-0979

