

The Weekly Messenger – November 15, 2020
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Pandemic Update: As the months have progressed, we have been following public health protocols for those attending the Divine Liturgy in person. Temperatures are taken prior to entering the church, masks must be worn inside the church, parishioners are seated 6' apart, hand sanitizer is available at multiple locations, books and prayer cards are not kept in the pews, separate spoons for Communion and the Meshe is placed in cups for the faithful. We open windows to introduce fresh air and will continue to do so during the winter months – so be sure to dress appropriately.

That being said there has been an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases reported in the Philadelphia area. Only come to church in person if you are comfortable doing so. Metropolitan Tikhon, (Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese) stated the following in a memo to Archdiocesan Clergy "***It is important that you also emphasize that no one is forced or obliged to come to services, and that everyone should be extra vigilant in their personal activities during the week if they want to be able to come to church services.***"

Parish Council wants everyone to feel safe when they attend the Divine Liturgy in person. If you have any suggestion to improve our protocols please let us know. Parish Council will discuss the continuation of coffee hour at our December 2nd meeting, as the weather will soon prohibit us from gathering outside. If you have any thoughts on coffee hour please email us info@stjohnsphila.org or join the ZOOM meeting on December 2nd.

We continue to Livestream the Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am or you can watch the recorded Divine Liturgy anytime via our Website <https://stjohnsphila.org/>

Christmas Decorations: Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic we will not be gathering together to decorate the church for the Nativity Season. We will put up a few decorations near the Solea but not the decorations we do in "a normal" year. Looking forward to 2021!

Parishioner News: We are so happy to share wonderful news: Laura and Jerry Hall are expecting their first child in late April 2021! Both Laura and Jerry are Sunday school teachers, although this year they along with the other Sunday school teachers are on hiatus! Congratulations and Many Years to the Hall family!



Nameday Celebration Our thanks to Father Dennis, Father Emmanuel and Deacon Andrew for serving at our Nameday Celebration. It was a magnificent day; coffee hour was outside and many people attended.



Nativity Fast: The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on *November 15 and concluding on December 24*, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us *conscious of our dependence upon God*.

Upcoming Events:

Nov 15th 3-year Memorial Valentina Rhodes & Michael Cosmo

Nov 21st Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Nov 22nd 2-year Memorial Kevin Ryan (Colleen Xhoxhi's brother)

Saturday Nov 28th Albanian Flag Day

Wednesday Dec 2nd Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm ZOOM

Dec 6th 40 Day Memorial Raphael Theokary

Thursday Dec 24th Christmas Eve Liturgy 4:30 pm

Updated Parish Directories are available: If you would like an updated parish directory please email info@stjohnsphila.org and a directory will be emailed to you. A limited number of copies will be available at the candle stand for those who do not have email.

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Metropolitan Theodosius, the 242,000 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Mauro DeFeo (Carolyn Dardaris' father), Raphael Theokary, Emilia Ojog (Florina & Costina Bacuta's grandmother) Valentina Rhodes (3 yrs.), Michael Cosmo (3 yrs.), Angelo Douris (7 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Commemorations for the Living: Health care workers, First responders, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Archbishop Anastasios, Reader Chris Manosis, Newly Illuminated Sophia Grace Garcia, Florina & Drew Garcia, Godparents Costina & Michael Morrison, Newborn Anthony, Fjorentina, Ilir & Nicholas Gremi, Linda Turner Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey's Mother), Paula & Maurice Robert (Christine Dardaris' Mom & Dad), Jim Ghicondey, Sophia Sarkos (Michele's sister), Lisa Kosta Bowser, Lee Gedremenc, Diane Mallios, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, Virginia Daka, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.