

The Weekly Messenger – January 29, 2017
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
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Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Charity & Benevolence Committee Update: This year's Christmas donations enabled our community to donate 400 toiletries goodie bags and socks to both the Spring Garden & West Philadelphia Chosen 300 sites. That's right 400! We had a balance of 60 sets which we donated along with bags lunches to the homeless in the Logan Circle area. The Sunday school senior class made the PB&J sandwiches over the holidays (see the church website for pics), bagged the lunches and delivered on foot with the aid of Merna Mikhail & Spartak Brahollari. It was a humbling experience for the teens to actually "interact" with those in such need when we have so much. They (and the committee) are inspired because of our parish's generosity and love. Thank you for all of your donations!!! May St. John's keep Christmas in our hearts the whole year through!!! *It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand. --Mother Theresa*

Soup-er Bowl Sunday: We will have our 4th Annual Soup-er Bowl NEXT Sunday on Feb. 5th following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking our parishioners to donate a homemade soup. We will offer the soup at coffee hour for a small donation. The proceeds will be donated to a charity. We hope you and your family are able to join us.



Home Blessing/Visitation: This year we are trying something new. The sign-up sheet, located in the side vestibule, will have a regional location. In February & March - Delaware County and southwest PA. April – Northeast Phila. Father Brooks would like to visit all of our parishioners. You may pick a date and time that is convenient and sign up on the sheet in the vestibule. Or you may contact Father Brooks directly to arrange a date for him to visit: fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org or call 215-992-9234

Sunday of Zacchaeus: The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Read more: <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/01/29/1-sunday-of-zacchaeus>

The Women's Day Celebration and Dance: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 6:00 – 10:00 pm in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$50.00, \$20.00 for children under 12. A buffet dinner and continuous dancing are included! Please contact Nilda Salavachi trustee.nilda@stjohnsphila.org for tickets or other information.

Commemorations for the Living: Paul Dimitri, Thomas Anderson, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Zoidis, John Kolea, Jr., William Spiro, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Kim Burdumy, Andigoni Steffa, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Commemorations for the Departed: Anna Laska, Philip Kosta, Joseph Potter, Greg Vrato, Sr., Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Coffee Hour Sponsors: We have many open dates in the coming weeks. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet and pick a date!!!

January 29th Mike & Carolyn Dardaris
February 5th Soup-er Bowl Sunday
Feb 12th Michele Lorimer, Amanda Schneider, Missy Zavatsky, Madge Graziani
February 19th Elena & Eduard Papa Marissa's 3rd Birthday
February 26th Kosta Family in memory of Phil – 40 days
March 5th **No Sponsor**

Upcoming Events:

January 29th Sunday school Ice Skating Outing
Thursday February 2, Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
Feb. 19th Meatfare Sunday
Feb 26th Sunday of Forgiveness/Cheesefare/40 Day Memorial Phil Kosta
Feb 27th Great Lent begins
Saturday March 4th Women's Day Celebration/Dance 6 pm – 11pm

Monthly giving for January: Paper Towels. Thank you to those who have made donations!