

## The Weekly Messenger – November 25, 2018

### St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979 or [fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org)

Website: <https://www.stjohnsphila.org>

Email address: [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

*Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27*

#### **Leavetaking of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos Into the Temple Commemorated on**

**November 25** According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God. When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called “Psalms of Ascent.”) The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence. <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2013/11/25/103392-leavetaking-of-the-entry-of-the-most-holy-theotokos-into-the-tem>

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Marie Daka, Marci Moore (5 years), Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country. *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:** Rose Adams, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

**#GivingTuesday** is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, this year November 27<sup>th</sup> and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Nilda Salavachi has created a donation page for our parish. Please contact Nilda [salavacis@yahoo.com](mailto:salavacis@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Albanian Flag Day:** November 28 marks the declaration of independence by Albania after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1912. Proclaimed during the National Assembly of Vlora, on that date the flag was officially accepted as the symbol of the independent nation of Albania. We are very proud of our Albanian Heritage!

**Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** at 10:00 am we will be decorating the church. Please stop by and give us a hand! The more people who come out to help out the quicker we will be done!!

#### **Annual Christmas Outing – Formerly the Ladies Society Christmas Outing:**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, 11:00 am, we will see *A Christmas Carol* at the Walnut Street Theater - after the play lunch at Barra Rosa 929 Walnut Street. There are 40 tickets available for the play. Unlimited for lunch. The cost for the play and show is \$70.00, lunch only \$40.00. You must pay for the tickets prior to November 25<sup>th</sup>. No tickets will be held and tickets cannot be paid for at the door. For more info contact [salavacis@yahoo.com](mailto:salavacis@yahoo.com)

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Nov 28<sup>th</sup>** Albanian Flag Day

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>** 2019 Budget Presentation during coffee hour

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Outing and Luncheon

**Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** 1-year memorial Paul Spiro, 3-year memorial Mary Croke

**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>** Sunday School Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** 5:00 pm Vespers Liturgy, Nativity of our Lord

#### **Coffee Hour Sponsors:** *THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH TO OUR GENEROUS FAMILIES!!!*

The sign-up sheet for 2019 is posted in the vestibule. Pick a date for next year!!

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School

**Saturday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am** Decorate the church for the Nativity

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>** Leyden Family

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>** Salavaci Family in honor of Niko's Nameday

**Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** Biando and Coraluzzi/Spiro families in Memory of Mary (Linda's Mom) and Paul Spiro

**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>** Chris Manosis

**Dec 30<sup>th</sup>** OPEN DATE

**Welcome to our visitors.** Father Brooks, the members of our Parish Council and our church community thank you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us. We invite you to join us for coffee hour and fellowship in the church hall following the Divine Liturgy.

#### **Monthly giving for November Single Ply Toilet Paper**

Thank you for the paper towels donated in October