

**The Weekly Messenger –January 12, 2014**

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

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

**Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979**

**Website: <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>**

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

*Epistle – St. Paul's Ephesians 4:7-1    Gospel – Matthew 4:12-17*

**Message from Father Brooks:** As you know, we postponed the Blessing of the Water until this week. On the Wednesday following, I will start blessing homes, beginning in Delaware County. I will be in touch with each of you the week before I'm in your area. If you can't make it then, we will reschedule. I look forward to visiting each of you, praying with you, and getting better acquainted. It will be a blessing for me. The best for the New Year!

**Jan 12, 2014:** Holy Theophany (Epiphany) blessing of water after the Divine Liturgy. We will have Holy Water in plastic bottles for all of our parishioners.

**Icon Auction** Today January 12<sup>th</sup> Icons 1 – 40 will be auctioned in the church hall during coffee hour. Please come out and support this very important fund raiser for our parish. If you are unable to attend the Icon Auction we encourage you to make a donation in the name of your Patron Saint. Visit our website to see how!  
[www.stjohnsphila.org](http://www.stjohnsphila.org)

**Commemorations for the Living:** Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Nikon, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Newly Illuminated Theodore, Loralyn Biando, Leslie Sochka, Dolly Spiro, Dino Cangelosi, Lisa Costa-Levitsky, Daniel Coraluzzi, 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:** Marcena Moore, Sorin, Nelson Mandela, George Douris, Gregory Bendo, 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>*

**January giving:** Paper Towels

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Thank you very much!

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Ann Gjoka & Linda Notskas in Memory of Joe Gjoka (25 years)

In Memory of George Notskas (25 years) and Kiki Notskas (15 years)

Jan 19<sup>th</sup> Bendo Family in Memory of Gregory Bendo

Jan 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday School hot dog sale

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Souper Bowl Sunday

**Important Dates:**

January 12<sup>th</sup> 40 day Memorial Marcy Moore - Icon Auction part 1

January 14<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Parish Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm

January 19<sup>th</sup> 40 day Memorial – Gregory Bendo – Icon Auction Part 2

Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> Women's Day Dance 7p-11p in the Church Hall

March 30<sup>th</sup> 1 year Memorial Nick Naum

**Women's Day Dance:** Our Parish will host our 7<sup>th</sup> Women's Day Dance on Saturday, March 8, 2014, beginning at 7:00 pm. The only time you will stop dancing is when you eat! International Women's Day receives scant attention in the United States, but in Europe it is a big deal. And in the Balkans it is a very big deal. Albania, like the rest of Europe goes all out in its recognition of all women- mothers, sisters, and daughters alike. International Women's Day is celebrated annually on March 8<sup>th</sup>. In different regions, the focus of the festivities ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love towards women, to a celebration of women's economic, political, and social achievements. In many regions the day has become an occasion for men to express their love for women in a way somewhat similar to a combination of Mother's Day and Valentine's Day. (<http://albaniaorbust.blogspot.com/2013/03/in-celebration-of-international-womens.html>)

**Sunday School News:** The Sunday school will hold a hot dog sale during coffee hour on Sunday, January 26, 2014. This is a fundraiser for the Sunday school which helps defer the cost of the Sunday school outings. The Sunday school is planning an ice skating outing to the Class of 1923 Rink in February. Details to follow. Sunday school director Steve Coraluzzi may be contacted at 610-459-0311, 856-562-9672, or e-mail [sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org)

**Stewardship:** Information will be distributed in the next few weeks. If you would like to assist with this committee or lend a hand in any way please contact Linda Biando <mailto:misslinda@stjohnsphila.org> or Father Brooks <mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org>

**2013 Pledge Update:** We received 123 pledges totaling \$64,185.00. To date we have received \$58,230.00 which is 91%. We thank all of our parishioners for their generosity!

**2013 Icons:** At our 2013 Icon Auction we received bids totaling \$13,950.00. To date we have received \$12,610.00, which is 90%. Again, we thank all who participated in the 2013 Icon Auction.