

# St. John the Evangelist Church

Invites all Firefighters and Friends of the Fire Service  
to join us at our annual

## Firefighters Memorial Mass

Saturday, February 16th, 2013 at 10 AM

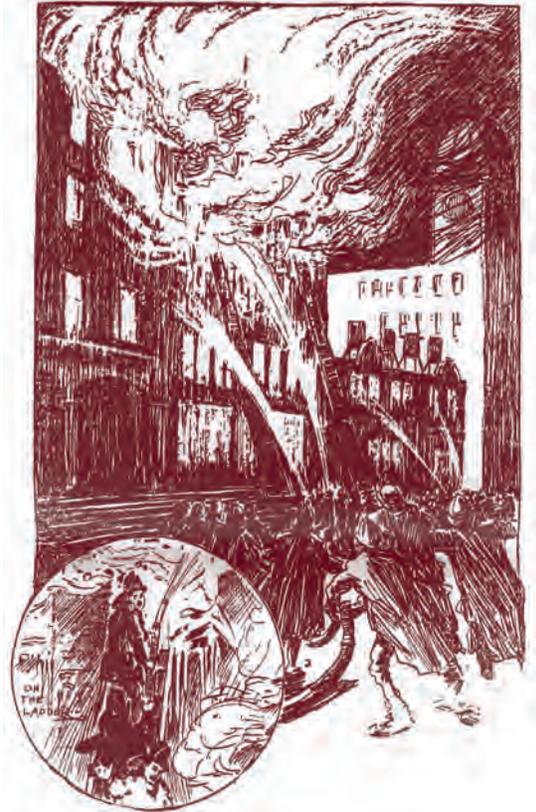
21 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Followed by a Reception in the New Parish House

### Firefighters hold a special place in the hearts of the members of St. John the Evangelist Church parish...

This goes all the way back to 1899 when the Church fell victim to fire and four members of the Philadelphia Fire Department gave their lives trying to save it.

On the night of February 16, 1899, fire broke out and burned through the night, destroying many buildings in the area of 13th and Market Streets. St. John the Evangelist Church was spared but the Rectory was heavily damaged. As they fought the fire, Hugh Duffy, William Chance and George Steinle, all members of Engine 32, were killed when a burning wall fell and crushed them to death. Two weeks later, James Shea, from Chemical Engine Co. No. 1, died from pneumonia, which he contracted while fighting the fire. The fire re-ignited early on the morning of February 17, 1899 and destroyed much of the church, with the exception of the Blessed Virgin statue, which remained untouched.



# St. John the Evangelist Church

Supports

# Philadelphia Firefighters and Paramedics!