

The Weekly Messenger – December 25, 2016

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

December 25



The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as Christmas.

Read more:

http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/nativity/index_html

Icons: Our annual Icon auction will be on Sunday, January 8th and January 15th 2017 Please return your Icons by next Sunday, December 18th so that we can prepare for the auction. Additionally, **Jan 8th 2017** Holy Theophany (Epiphany) blessing of water after the Divine Liturgy. As in the past we will distribute Holy Water in small bottles.

There's still time: We are asking our parishioners to send Christmas cards to those who are not able to come to church and those who are ill. If you have someone who could use some holiday cheer, please send us their name & address. A list is available at the candle stand or you can request the list of names by emailing: info@stjohnsphila.org

Fr. Brooks' sabbatical - I will return on the 5th of January. While I am gone, Fr. Emanuel will be the priest in charge. He is really a good priest; please get to know him. Father Emmanuel can be reached at 215-543-2989. Blessings, Fr. Brooks

Parishioner News: Congratulations to Paul and Lisa Laska who welcomed their son, Gabriel George on December 8, 2016. Gabriel weighed in at 7lbs, 6ozs and was 21" long. Mom, Dad and Gabe are doing well. Gabriel is the grandson of Anna Laska. May god bless them and grant them many years!

Our Sunday School Pageant Under the directions of Sandi Fiss and the Sunday school teacher was presented last Sunday. If you were not able to attend look at the photos on our website <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>

Coffee Hour Sponsors: We are in need of coffee hour sponsors for 2017.

The sign-up sheet for 2017 is posted in the side vestibule.

December 25th No Liturgy we will Celebrate the Nativity Liturgy on Dec 24th

January 1st No sponsor

January 8th Sunday School

January 15th No sponsor

January 22nd No sponsor

January 29th No sponsor

February 5th Soup-er Bowl Sunday (Parishioners donate homemade soup)

Commemorations for the Departed: Nick Dimitri (4 years), Sophie Harrington, Victoria VerPlanck, Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Commemorations for the Living: Father Brooks, Jamie, Taylor, Scout, Paul Dimitri, Paula Urquhart, Andrea Subashi, Alan, Carl, Anna and Zoe VerPlanck, Michele Coraluzzi, Thomas Anderson, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Zoidis, John Kolea, Jr., William Spiro, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Semele Halkedis, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Philip Kosta, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Clive Miller, Kim Burdumy, Andigoni Steffa, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

Upcoming Events:

SATURDAY December 24th Christmas Eve Liturgy @ 6:00 pm

JANUARY 1st 2017 Liturgy of St. Basil at 10:00 am

SATURDAY Jan 7th 1:00pm Baptism of Vanessa, Haley, Mikayla & Nathan Kashari

Jan 8th 2017 Holy Theophany/ Epiphany is celebrated on Jan 6th. Fr. Brooks will bless the water on Jan 8th Part 1 of our annual Icon Auction

Tuesday Jan 10th 2017 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Jan 15th 2017 Annual Icon Auction – Part 2

Thursday Jan 19th 2017 Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

Monthly giving for December: Your Christmas Donation. You should have received a letter in the mail. Our sincere thanks to those who have made donations.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Many thanks to our parishioners who make Christmas at St. John Chrysostom so very special. Wishing everyone a blessed and joyous Nativity!

