

**The Weekly Messenger – December 24, 2017**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

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

Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979

Website: [www.stjohnsphila.org](http://www.stjohnsphila.org)

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

*Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25*

**CHRIST IS BORN!**  
**GLORIFY HIM!**



**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.

**Biblical Story** The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures. The story is found in [Matthew 1:18-25](#) and in [Luke 2:1-20](#). No matter how often the Birth of Jesus is told, we realize that it is an important event. Read more: <https://www.goarch.org/nativity?inheritRedirect=true>

**Christmas Card Alert: There is still time** to send a Christmas card 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](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Pandeli Spiro, Peter Kosta (5 yrs), George Douris (4 yrs), Nick Dimitri (5 yrs), Michael Cosmo, Tina Rhodes, 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:** Newborn Nicholas, Fjorentina & Ilir Gremi, Newly Illuminated Laura Hall, Newly Illuminated Teresa Papa, Pandora Bendo, Linda Dudash, Betty Subashi, Craig Risley, Larry Jance, Sara, Wayne Merkle, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

**The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany)** of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6<sup>th</sup>. However, Father will bless the water on **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, following the Divine Liturgy.

**Father Brooks** will be on vacation from January 8<sup>th</sup> – January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. Father Brooks will arrange for a substitute priest January 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There will also be a priest who will be available for our parishioners should they be in need.

**2018 Calendars** are available at the candle stand. Our thanks to Vraim Funeral Home for donating the calendars to our parish.

**Annual Icon Auction:** In two weeks (January 7, 2018), we will hold our Annual Icon Auction. Congratulations if you were fortunate enough to have the high bid and were able to keep the Icon in your home during 2017. We ask that you return the Icon so that we can prepare for the 2018 Auction. A list of Icons available for bids will be on our website. Even if you are not able to attend the Icon Auction you can still submit a bid or make a donation in honor of your patron saint. If you bid on an Icon in 2017 and have not made your donation there is still time. Please send a check or go online our website [www.stjohnsphila.org](http://www.stjohnsphila.org) and select the Donate button. Thank you!

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Our sincere thanks to all who have or are going to sponsor a coffee hour in 2017. Thanks to Jim Bendo we have a 2018 coffee hour sign-up sheet. It is posted in the side vestibule. Please pick a date and sponsor a coffee hour in 2018!

**December 24<sup>th</sup> NO COFFEE HOUR** Liturgy at 4:00 pm

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** Bill Bortner

**January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018** Sunday school

**Upcoming Events:**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Vespers Liturgy 4:00 pm no Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

**Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>** @ 6:00 pm 40 day Memorial for Michael Cosmo (husband of Donna Dimitri) All invited to attend the repast in the church hall following the Memorial service.

**January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018** Holy Epiphany (Blessing of the water) Part 1 of the Annual Icon Auction

**Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>** Father Brooks on vacation

**January 14<sup>th</sup> 2018** Part 2 of the Annual Icon Auction

**February 4<sup>th</sup> 2018** Soup-er Bowl Sunday

**Monthly Giving for December:** Your Christmas donation to St. Johns Thank you!

**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!

*If you have something for the Weekly Messenger please email [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*