

The Weekly Messenger – December 31, 2017
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: II Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!
KRISHTI LINDI! LAVDËROJENI ATË!

The Great Feast of Theophany is more ancient than that of Christ's Nativity. In fact, it was precisely on January 6 that the Church first celebrated Christ's birth (and the adoration of the Magi), together with His baptism in the Jordan. These events—of the greatest significance not only in the life of Christ but in the “economy” of our salvation—were united in one celebration known as “Theophany,” which means “manifestation of God.” (The Feast is also referred to as “Epiphany,” which simply means “manifestation.”) Read more:

<https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/one-baptism-for-the-remission-of-sins>

Annual Icon Auction: NEXT SUNDAY (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 to our website www.stjohnsphila.org and select the Donate button. Thank you!

Commemorations for the Departed: Pandeli Spiro, 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.

If you have news for the messenger please send it to info@stjohnsphila.org

Message from Father Brooks: Christ is Born! Hope all had a great Christmas. Epiphany is right around the corner, and I'm working out the details for the home blessings. I look forward to visiting all of you in the coming months. A sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule.

Message from Donna Dimitri: The Cosmo-Dimitri family extends our heartfelt thanks to our family at St. John Chrysostom for your support following the death of our beloved Michael. Your expressions of love have made this most difficult time much more bearable. Thank you, Thank-you, Thank-you!

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

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

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 31st Bill Bortner

January 7th, 2018 Sunday school

January 14th 2018 OPEN DATE – no sponsor

January 21st 2018 Kosta Family 1 yr Memorial for Phil

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

January 7th, 2018 Holy Epiphany (Blessing of the water) Part 1 of the Annual Icon Auction

Jan 8th – Jan 23rd Father Brooks on vacation

January 14th 2018 Part 2 of the Annual Icon Auction

January 21st, 2018 1 Year Memorial – Philip Kosta

February 4th 2018 Soup-er Bowl Sunday

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

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
GËZUAR VITIN E RI!