

**The Weekly Messenger – January 1, 2017**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12 Gospel: Luke:20-21, 40-52*

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

**January 1<sup>st</sup> - Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia**, “belongs not to the Church of Caesarea alone, nor merely to his own time, nor was he of benefit only to his own kinsmen, but rather to all lands and cities worldwide, and to all people he brought and still brings benefit, and for Christians he always was and will be a most salvific teacher.” Thus spoke Saint Basil’s contemporary, Saint Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium . Read more at <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2016/01/01/100003-st-basil-the-great-archbishop-of-caesarea-in-cappadocia>

**January 1 Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** Since the Mosaic Law commands that if a woman give birth to a male child, he should be circumcised in the foreskin of his flesh on the eighth day (Lev. 12:2-3), on this, the eighth day from His Nativity, our Saviour accepted the circumcision commanded by the Law. According to the command of the Angel, He received the Name which is above every name: JESUS, which means "Saviour" (Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31 and 2:21).  
Read more at [http://www.goarch.org/chapel/saints\\_view?contentid=363](http://www.goarch.org/chapel/saints_view?contentid=363)

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

**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

**Special Thanks:** to Santa and Mrs. Claus aka Mike Leyden and Paula Bendo, for visiting with our children during coffee hour on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Smiles filled the room!

Thanks very much to Sergio Georgi for taking photos during the Liturgy on Christmas Eve. Visit our website and take a look: <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.*

January 1<sup>st</sup> Father Emmanuel and Maria Pratsinakis *In Honor of the Father Brooks Ledford Family and all those who celebrate the Patronal Feast Day During the Twelve Days of Christmas*  
January 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday School  
January 15<sup>th</sup> No sponsor  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> No sponsor  
January 29<sup>th</sup> No sponsor

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Greg Vrato, Sr., Philip, Connie & Stephanie Manosis, 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:**

**JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 Liturgy of St. Basil at 10:00 am**

**SATURDAY Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm** Baptism of Vanessa, Haley, Mikayla & Nathan Kashari  
Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 Holy Theophany/ Epiphany is celebrated on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Brooks will bless the water on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Part 1 of our annual Icon Auction

Tuesday Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 Annual Icon Auction – Part 2

Thursday Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

**Per Shume Vjet Gezuar! January Namedays:** 1<sup>st</sup> St. Basil, 7<sup>th</sup> St John the Baptist, 11<sup>th</sup> St Theodosius, 14<sup>th</sup> St Nina, 17<sup>th</sup> St Anthony, 18<sup>th</sup> St Athanasius, 20<sup>th</sup> St Euthymius, 23<sup>rd</sup> St Dionysius of Korca, 25<sup>th</sup> St Gregory, Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Hierarchs (Basil, Gregory, John Chrysostom)

**Monthly giving for January: Paper Towels**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS DONATIONS!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**GËZUAR VITIN E RI!**