

**The Weekly Messenger – Dec 23, 2018**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25*



**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.

**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:** Again, this year, 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 will be 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:** Peter Kosta (6 yrs), Nick Dimitri (6 yrs), Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*

**Commemorations for the Living:** Donna Pappas, Ensign Zach Dardaris, Marion Merkle, Tala Ayyad, Diane Mallios, Reader Chris Manosis, Rose Adams, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces

**Parishioner News:** Two of our altar servers, Kevin Fiss (currently a freshman at Temple University) and Gregory Dardaris (a sophomore at Abington High School) are asking for your help as they raise money for two very worthwhile causes. Kevin is participating in a HootaThon to raise money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Gregory is going to Senegal, Africa to help build an elementary school. He is asking for assistance funding his trip to Africa. Detailed letters are attached. Kevin and Gregory will be happy to answer any questions you have! Please help them as they help others.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>** Sunday School Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy  
**Monday - Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** at St. John 5:00 pm Vespers Liturgy, Nativity of our Lord  
**Tuesday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** at **Ss. Peter & Paul Church** 10:00 am Nativity Liturgy  
**Jan 6<sup>th</sup>** Epiphany and Part 1 of the Annual Icon Auction  
**Jan 13<sup>th</sup>** Part 2 of the Annual Icon Auction

**Christmas Donation:** If you are active on Social Media - Facebook, Twitter, please consider making your Christmas donation via <https://www.facebook.com/donate/270104577186810/2454343557913797/> Making your Christmas donation in this manner gives us the opportunity for your Christmas donation to be matched via the #GivingTuesday Fund. Contact Nilda Salavachi with any questions [salavacis@yahoo.com](mailto:salavacis@yahoo.com)

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** *THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH TO OUR GENEROUS FAMILIES!!!*

The sign-up sheet for 2019 is posted in the vestibule. Pick a date for next year!!  
**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>** Chris Manosis  
**Dec 30<sup>th</sup>** OPEN DATE  
**Jan 6<sup>th</sup>** Sunday school

**2019 Calendars** are available at the candle stand. Our thanks to Vraim Funeral Home for donating the calendars to our parish.

**Annual Icon Auction:** On of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, we will hold part 1 of our Annual Icon Auction. *We ask that you return the Icon so that we can prepare for the 2019 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 2018 and have not made your donation there is still time.

**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)*