

The Weekly Messenger – Dec 9, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Galatians 4:22-27 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

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

Our Church was decorated for the Nativity season last Saturday. Absolutely BEAUTIFUL! Thank you to Linda Notskas, Janice Leyden, Greta Dilo, Melissa Hyseneshi, Jamie Ledford, Laura Risley, Josh, Eli, Donna Dimitri for their decorating skills! View Photos: <https://stjohnsphila.org/photos.html>

Commemorations for the Departed: Kristo Joseph, Mary Croke (3 years), Gregory Bendo (5 years), Kiki Notskas (20 years), 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*

Commemorations for the Living: Tala Ayyad, Donna Pappas, 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

Upcoming Events:

Dec 8th Christmas Outing and Luncheon

Monday, Dec 10th Parish Council meeting 7:00 pm

Dec 16th 1-year memorial Paul Spiro, 3-year memorial Mary Croke

Dec 23rd Sunday School Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy

Monday - Dec 24th 5:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy, Nativity of our Lord

Jan 6th Epiphany and Part 1 of the Annual Icon Auction

Jan 13th Part 2 of the Annual Icon Auction

Monthly giving for December your Christmas Donation

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 salavaci@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 9th Salavaci Family in honor of Niko's Nameday

Dec 16th Biando and Coraluzzi/Spiro families in Memory of Mary (Linda's Mom) and Paul Spiro

Dec 23rd Chris Manosis

Dec 30th OPEN DATE

Jan 6th Sunday school

Contribution update: Contribution statements (for contributions you made as of Nov 30, 2018) were emailed to all parishioners. If you did not receive a statement contact Nilda Salavachi. Another statement will be sent toward the middle of Jan 2019, which will include all contributions for 2018. That will be the statement you use for your tax return. As of Nov. 30th, we have received pledges totaling \$41,549.00. Our goal is \$60,000.00 - so we are quite behind.

Sunday school: December 23rd, following the Divine Liturgy, the Sunday school will present their annual Christmas Pageant. The most precious kids in the Philadelphia area attend St. Johns and this is a must-see event. Bring your kids, your grandkids, nieces, nephews and your camera. You don't want to miss the pageant.

Annual Icon Auction: On of January 6th, 2019, we will hold 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. At the 2018 Icon Auction we received bids totaling \$16,575.00. As of Nov. 30th, we have received \$12,305.00. To those who have an outstanding balance, please send a check or go online to PayPal and submit your donation. 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.