

The Weekly Messenger – December 12, 2021
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Upcoming Events:

Sat Dec 11th Ladies Christmas Outing contact Nilda Salavachi.

Sat Dec 18th 10:30 am Baptism of Maya Jishkariani, daughter of David Jishkariani and Mirna El-Khatib

12:00 pm Baptism of Nicholas Marku, son of Gentjan and Elvira Marku

Sun Dec 19th 1year Memorial Helen Theokary Sunday school Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy

Friday Dec 24th Nativity Vigil @ 5:00 pm

Sat Dec 25th Nativity Liturgy @ 10:00 am

Note that we will be serving Theophany and bless the water on the 9th of January, Sunday. The bottles for the Holy Water will be provided.

Coffee Hour

Dec 12th Marjana Kokalari

Dec 19th Theokary Family in honor of Helen Dec 26th Chris Manosis

We thank Jim Bendo for willing to prepare the coffee hour sign-up sheet for 2022. Those who are willing to sponsor a coffee hour, please visit our website [SPONSORE COFFEE HOUR](#)

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon the 794,000 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Helen Theokary, Tefta Tomcho, Marci Moore, Kiki Notskas, Mary Croke, Gregory Bendo, George Douris, Peter Kosta, Paul Spiro, Greg Vrato Sr, Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Commemorations for the Living: Health care workers, first responders, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Archbishop Anastasios, Father Gregory Dudash, Dorothy Tomassini, Betty Subashi, Virginia Daka, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Annual Icon Auction: On the 9th of January and 16th of January, an icon auction will be held. Please return the icons you received in 2020 and 2021 so that we can prepare for the upcoming auction.

Communal Singing: The Choir encourages our parishioners to join them singing on Sunday. If you would like to sing - quietly or even a little louder while seated in the pews – please do so. Of course, the choir is always looking for members. See Vlad or Susan Melnik.

Sunday school: December 19th 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.

Note that Sunday school is taking a winter break. There will be no Sunday School classes on the 26th of December, 2nd of January, and 9th of January. Sunday Schooling will be resumed on the 16th of January.

Christmas Liturgy: Friday, December 24th at 5:00 pm, we will be serving Christmas Vigil. Saturday, December 25th at 10:00 am, we will be serving Christmas Liturgy.

Christmas is one of the major feasts of the Orthodox Church. As St. John Chrysostom puts it: “The Only Begotten, Who is before all ages, Who cannot be touched or be perceived, Who is simple, without body, has now put on our body, that is visible and liable to corruption. For what reason? That coming amongst us, he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that men cannot see. For since men believe that the eyes are more trustworthy than the ears, they doubt of that which they do not see, and so He has deigned to show Himself in bodily presence, that He may remove all doubt.”

The birth of Christ is a mystery of mysteries. He who created the universe voluntarily accepted to come into the world as one of the creations. He who is true God becomes a true man. The Creator has united himself to His creation so that he might bring life to the world. God became man so that man could become a god through grace. We have to remember that the liturgy is our chance to unite ourselves to this renovated nature of humanity. Human nature is renovated because God dwelled in it and gave us His Body and His Blood to participate in this renewed human life. Every time we miss the liturgy, we miss a chance to partake in this Great and Holy Mystery.

Welcome to our visitors. Father Giorgi, 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.

Quotes From the Church Fathers: “Do not say that faith in Christ alone can save you, for this is not possible if you do not attain love for Him, which is demonstrated by deeds. As for mere faith: "The demons also believe and tremble" (James, 2:19). The action of love consists in heartfelt good deeds toward one's neighbor, magnanimity, patience, and sober use of things.”

Christmas Tree Decoration: We had a wonderful evening on the 4th of December. Our parish kids, alongside their parents, have decorated a Christmas tree [\[See Pics\]](#). It was such a joy to see the happiness of those kids. We are sure that this reminiscence will accompany them for years and strengthen their affiliation with the Church. Christmas tree decoration was followed by the Vespereal service and dinner, where attendees glorified God and enjoyed each other's presence.