

The Weekly Messenger – December 29, 2019
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

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

Sunday after the Nativity: Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James. <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2008/12/28/86-sunday-after-the-nativity-commemoration-of-the-holy-righteous-da>

Please return your Icons for our Annual Icon Auction: On of January 5th, 2020 and January 12th, 2020 we will hold our Annual Icon Auction.

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the victims of the earthquake in Albania, Irene Stefani, Kristo Joseph (1 yr.), 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: The victims of the earthquake in Albanian, Janice Leyden, Lisa Kosta Bowser, Erin Thack, Sara, Paul, Lee Gedremenc, Diane Mallios, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, George Robos, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Sunday school: Special thanks to Sandi Fiss for once again coordinating the Christmas pageant. Photos have been posted on our website [Christmas Photos](#) Thanks to Paula and Jim Bendo for donating the gifts given to the children. And of course, thank you to Santa & Mrs. Claus for stopping by during coffee hour! Thank-you Sergio for taking the photos!



2020 Calendars are available at the candle stand. Our thanks to Vraim Funeral Home for donating the calendars to our parish.

Coffee Hour Sponsors: if you are sponsoring coffee hour it would be greatly appreciated if you could stay after to assist with the clean-up - thank you!

Dec 29th Sunday School

Jan 5th 2020 Sunday School

Jan 12th No Sponsor

Jan 19th Kosta Family in memory of Phil

Jan 26th Bendo Family in memory of Pandora

Feb 2nd Souper Bowl Sunday

Upcoming Events:

Jan 6th 2020, Epiphany/Theophany- Blessing of the Water. *We will have the water blessed on Sunday, January 5th, 2020 following the Divine Liturgy* Also Part 1 Icon Auction

Jan 19th 3-year Memorial Phil Kosta

Jan 26th 2-year Memorial Pandora Bendo

Feb 2nd SOUP-ER Bowl Sunday – parishioners make their specialty soup which is sold during coffee hour. All proceeds are donated to a charity.

Feb 15th (Saturday) Valentine Day Dance (more info to follow) in lieu of the annual Women's Day dance.

Feb 22 & 23 Metropolitan Tikhon will visit our parish and Ss. Peter & Paul

Monthly Giving for December - your Christmas offering Christmas Donations may be made online [ChristmasDonation](#) Thank you!

If you have information for the Weekly Messenger please email info@stjohnsphila.org

Thank-you Father Gregory for serving today! Welcome Linda!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
GËZUAR VITIN E RI!