

The Weekly Messenger – December 5, 2021
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Upcoming Events

Sat Dec 4th Decorate the Christmas tree 3:30 pm followed by Vespers @ 5:00 pm
Tue Dec 7th Parish Council Meeting Via ZOOM 7:00 pm
Sat Dec 11th Ladies Christmas Outing (Luncheon) contact Nilda Salavachi
Dec 12th Charity & Benevolence Committee Outreach to the Homeless in the City
Dec 19th 1-year Memorial Helen Theokary
Sunday school Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy
Santa & Mrs. Claus will be at coffee hour
Friday Dec 24th Nativity Liturgy @ 4:00 pm

Coffee Hour

Dec 5th Marjana Kokalari Dec 12th Salavachi & Brahollari Families
Dec 19th Theokary Family in honor of Helen Dec 26th Chris Manosis

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon the 786,000 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Tefta Tomcho, Mary Croke (6 yrs.), Gregory Bendo (8 yrs.), Kiki Notskas (23 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

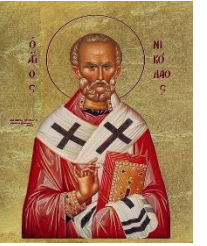
Commemorations for the Living: Health care workers, First responders, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Father Gregory Dudash, Betty Subashi, Liya Gendler, Linda Notskas, Marika Sarkos, Olimbi Grabocka, Aleksander Pallko, Stephen Petro, Hajri Xhoxhaj, Dorothy Tomassini, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey's Mother), Joyce & Maurice Robert (Christine Dardaris' Mom & Dad), Lisa Kosta Bowser, Lee Gedremenc, Evangeline Prifti, Virginia Daka, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Christmas Card Alert: 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 sent to you upon your request. Email info@stjohnsphila.org

Monthly Giving for December - your Christmas offering

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Commemorated on Dec 6 Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.
[READ MORE](#)



This Sunday, Dec. 5th: Liya Gendler will be baptized during the Divine Liturgy. Liya found St. Johns about 6 months ago while checking the Internet for Orthodox Churches. She has been in church almost every Sunday since then. We are so happy Liya has become part of our church family. Many Years to Liya and her Sponsor/Godmother Linda Notskas!

Sunday Dec 12th Charity & Benevolence Committee Outreach: Members of the Committee will give away clothing, toiletries and food to the area homeless. The event will be from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. **The Committee has plenty of clothing but they are asking for donations of socks and snacks.** Contact: Sandi Fiss, Diane Coraluzzi, Reem Tarazi, Susan Melnik, Christine Dardaris, Linda Croke, Paula Bendo, Kevin Fiss with questions.

Flag Day Pledge Drive Update: Our Parish has received **90 pledges** as of November 30, 2021. Father Giorgi suggested we start a drive to reach **100 NEW OR INCREASED PLEDGES by FLAG DAY** (Albanian Independence Day) November 28th. Since we did not reach our goal of 100 pledges, we have extended our Pledge Drive through December 31st and hope to achieve our goal by that date. Please [PLEDGE NOW](#)
Thank you to those who have pledged this year!

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. Please speak with Vlad or Susan Melnik or Father Giorgi.

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 or Santa and Mrs. Claus who will visit during coffee hour and will have treats for the kids. It is also a great time to take a photo of your family with Santa!

Mark your calendar - Christmas Eve Liturgy, Friday December 24th @ 4:00 pm. If you are not able to join in person, please consider Livestreaming!

Per Shume Vjet Gezuar! Dec 4 Great Martyr Barbara, Dec 6 St. Nicholas, Dec 12 St. Spiridon, Dec 15 St. Eleutherios, Dec 17 Holy Prophet Daniel, Dec 23 St. Naum, Dec 25 Christmas Day, Sunday after Christmas St. Joseph the Betrothed, St. David the King, Dec 27 St. Stephen the Protomartyr.