

**The Weekly Messenger – December 25, 2022**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-563-0979**  
Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)

*Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12*

**Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** Nativity Liturgy 4:00 pm (Father Dennis)  
**January 1, 2023** Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai) begins his ministry at St. John  
**Monday Jan 9<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm  
**Jan 6<sup>th</sup>** Theophany/Epiphany  
**Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** 10-year memorial Peter Kosta Blessing of water for Theophany/Epiphany  
**Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>** Icon Auction  
**Feb 12<sup>th</sup>** Soup-er Bowl Sunday  
**March 2023** Date to be Determined – Women’s Day Dance

**Coffee Hour Sponsor:** The 2023 Signup sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Please take a look and pick a date to sponsor coffee hour in 2023. **Thank you to Jim Bendo** for preparing the 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet or sign up on our website: [COFFEE HOUR](#)

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** No Coffee Hour  
**Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023** Open Date No Sponsor                      **Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** Kosta Family in Memory of Peter

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Dolly Seiler (2 yrs.), Greg Vrato, Sr. (6 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Mark, Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese, Archimandrite Nikodhim Preston, people in Ukraine, Newly Illuminated Theodora Holly, Costina & Michael Morrison, Florian & Andrew Garcia, John Jance, Janice Leyden, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Vicki, Helen, Virginia Daka, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey’s Mother), Evangeline Prifti, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living, please email [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

**Annual Icon Auction:** January 22 and 29, 2023 during coffee hour. Please return the icons you received in 2022 so that we can prepare for the upcoming auction.

**Our Parish is Moving Forward** We now accept VENMO. Simply enter @stjcaoc or the church phone number 215-563-0979 to make a donation!

**Please continue to check you bank statements** to be sure any checks you sent to the church have cleared. We continue to have problems with our mail delivery. A complaint has been filed with the post office. Unfortunately, we haven’t heard from the USPS in reference to our complaint. We sent another email.

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!** Many thanks to our parishioners and friends who make Christmas at St. John Chrysostom so very special. Wishing everyone a blessed and joyous Nativity!



**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.

**Christmas Pageant:** Our Christmas Pageant very special this year – a fun time had by all! We are so very blessed to have the wonderful group of children and parents who bring them to Sunday School. Thanks to Sandi Fiss and Fiori Papa for coordinating the pageant. Special thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus (Greg Dardaris & Paula Bando). Photos of the Pageant are posted on our new website under the Media tab <https://stjcaoc.org/media/>



**Our Christmas Letter** was sent mailed last week. The letter is posted on our website too. If you would like to make a Christmas donation please consider going to our website <https://stjcaoc.org/donate/> to donate online. Or if you VENMO, we have that now! @stjcaoc or use our phone number 215-563-0979,

**2023 Calendars** are available at the Candle Stand. If you want the calendar mailed to you, please contact [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org) or call 215-563-0979. Thank you to Vraim Funeral Home for sponsoring the printing of the 2023 Calendars

**Welcome to our visitors.** 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.

**Thank you for serving today, Father Dennis!** We extend our deepest gratitude to you for your dedicated service to our parish over the past 4 years. You were here for us in our time of need and we are very grateful. **Many Years!**

*If you have something to share in the Weekly Messenger, please email [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

**December Giving Paper Towels**