

The Weekly Messenger – December 24, 2023
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 23:32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1-25

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Dec. 23rd VESPERS 5:00pm

Dec 24th Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am followed by a short service for Christmas with readings/chanting by our Sunday school Students

Dec 25th Nativity Liturgy @ 10:00 am

Dec 31st Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am

Jan 1, 2024 1 Year Anniversary of Father Kai and Prifteresha Ia arriving at St. Johns

Saturday Jan 6th Divine Liturgy 10:00 am, Blessing of the Water for Theophany/Epiphany
Baptism of Wesley David Lewis-Hanson

Jan 7th Lesser blessing of the water and Icon Auction Part 1 during Coffee Hour

Monday, Jan 8th Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

Saturday, Jan 13th 6:00 pm Memorial for +Charles Petro

Jan 14th 3-year Memorial +Nick Zoto Icon Auction Part 2

Feb 11th Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, Fr. John Kuchta (4 yrs.), Greg Vrato, Sr. (7 yrs.), Charles Petro, Cindy Caponi, Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

Commemorations for the Living: His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim, Father Joseph Ciarcigliano, the people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, Teri Douris, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, Karen, Eugene Angelidis (Roxane Ghicondey's brother). Jim Bendo, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Virginia Daka, 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*

Coffee Hour Sponsor: sign-up on the sheet or click this link [CoffeeHourSignup](#)

Dec 24th NO COFFEE HOUR

Dec 31st NO COFFEE HOUR

Jan 7, 2024 Parish Council

Jan 14th Zoto Family in Memory of +Nick

Jan 21st NO SPONSOR

Jan 28th NO SPONSOR

It is with sadness we inform you of the repose of +Charles Petro son of the late +Christo and +Lillian Petro. Charles is survived by his wife Tina, daughter Lori Petro (Nicholas Wilde), granddaughter, Maia Luna and stepson Gregory Richmond. Charles was the nephew of Linda Kosta and the late +Phil Kosta. A memorial service will be held in January.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/charles-petro-obituary?id=53856774>



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 Sock and Underwear Drive: Bring some socks and underwear to Church!

Linda Croke and Linda Notskas are collecting socks and under ware for the homeless. A box will be located in the vestibule near the candle stand. Please drop off a package of socks or under ware or both!

Bravo to our Sunday School students for a wonderful Christmas Pageant!

Everyone did a great job, Narrators, Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. A perfect day. Many thanks to Paula Bendo and Tom Moore for their participation as Santa and Mrs. Clause during coffee hour. The kids were so happy!



2024 Calendars are available at the Candle Stand. If you want the calendar mailed to you, please contact info@stjcaoc.org or call 215-563-0979. Thank you to Vraim Funeral Home for sponsoring the printing of the 2024 Calendars

If you mailed a Christmas donation to the church, please to check you bank statements to be sure any checks you sent to the church have been cashed. Although the mail delivery is somewhat better – You Never Know!

Annual Icon Auction: January 7th * 14th 2024. **We ask that you return the Icon/s** you received last year so that we can prepare for the 2024 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 2023 and have not made your donation there is still time. Please send a check or go online [DONATE](#) and submit your donation. Thank you!

Welcome to our visitors. Father Kai, 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.

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!

Monthly giving for December – Your Christmas Offering