

**The Weekly Messenger – November 13, 2022**

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

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**Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-8:2 Gospel: John 10:9-16**

**Saturday, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>** Baptism Thea Morrison, daughter of Costina & Michael Morrison 11:00

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup>** Parish Nameday Celebration

**Nov 14<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

**Nov 15<sup>th</sup>** Nativity Fast Begins

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup>** 5-year Memorial +Valentina Rhodes and +Michael Cosmo

**Nov 21<sup>st</sup>** Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

**Nov 28<sup>th</sup>** Albanian Flag Day/Independence Day

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School Honors our Ancestors & Albanian Flag Day

**Dec 11<sup>th</sup>** 10- year Memorial Peter Kosta

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School Pageant

**Coffee Hour Sponsor:**

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup>** Parish Nameday Luncheon Parishioner bring their special dish to share

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup>** Dimitri-Cosmo Family in Memory of Michael

**Nov 27<sup>th</sup>** Colleen & Sergio Georgi in Memory of Michael, Kevin & Charlie Ryan  
Colleen's brothers

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup>** Salavachi & Brahollari Families

**Dec 11<sup>th</sup>** Linda Kosta and Family in Memory of Peter

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** Chris Manosis in honor of his Nameday

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Mary Leach (Dodona Papa's aunt), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Igumen Nikodhim Preston, our Bishop Elect, people in Ukraine, 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@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*

**Nativity Fast:** The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on **November 15 and concluding on December 24**, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us *conscious of our dependence upon God*

**Our Patron Saint - Saint John Chrysostom - November 13<sup>th</sup>** Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, one of the Three Hierarchs [January 30], was born at Antioch in about the year 347 into the family of a military commander. His father, Secundus, died soon after the birth of his son. His mother, Anthusa, widowed at twenty years of age, did not seek to remarry but rather devoted all her efforts to the raising of her son in Christian piety. The youth studied under the finest philosophers and rhetoricians. But, scorning the vain disciplines of pagan knowledge, the future hierarch turned himself to the profound study of Holy Scripture and prayerful contemplation. Saint Meletius, Bishop of Antioch (February 12), loved John like a son, guided him in the Faith, and in the year 367 baptized him.

After three years John was tonsured as a Reader. When Saint Meletius had been sent into exile by the emperor Valens in the year 372, John and Theodore (afterwards Bishop of Mopsuestia) studied under the experienced instructors of ascetic life, the presbyters Flavian and Diodorus of Tarsus. The highly refined Diodorus had particular influence upon the youth. When John's mother died, he embraced monasticism, which he called the "true philosophy." Soon John and his friend Basil were being considered as candidates for the episcopal office, and they decided to withdraw into the wilderness to avoid this. While Saint John avoided the episcopal rank out of humility, he secretly assisted in Basil's consecration.

[READ MORE](#) about St. John Chrysostom on the OCA Website

**Message from our Sunday School Students:** This time of year, we believe we should find ways to help those less fortunate than us. So the middle and high school students are participating in a Holiday Gift Drive organized by the Committee to Benefit the Children at St Christopher's Hospital and we need your help! The Committee to Benefit the Children helps children with leukemia, other cancers, sickle cell anemia, and bleeding disorders and their families, especially those who struggle financially. We have signed up to sponsor 5 children for their holiday drive this year. We are asking for donations from you to help us purchase the things on each of these children's wish list. Any donation, big or small, is appreciated. We will be putting out donation baskets every Sunday for the next few weeks and you can also donate online. Please just note that the donation is for the Sunday School service project. Thank you for your help in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas and bringing joy and love to those that need it most.

**Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar!** To our parishioners and friends who celebrate their Nameday in November: 8<sup>th</sup> Archangels Michael, Raphael, 11<sup>th</sup> Martyr Victor, 13<sup>th</sup> St. John Chrysostom, 14<sup>th</sup> Apostle Philip, 25<sup>th</sup> Great Martyr Catherine, 30<sup>th</sup> Apostle Andrew

**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.

**Father Andrew - Thank you for serving today!**

**November Giving Napkins**