

The Weekly Messenger – December 11, 2022  
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church  
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*Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24*

**Upcoming Events:**

**Monday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

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

**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

**Jan 6<sup>th</sup>** Theophany/Epiphany **Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** 10-year memorial Peter Kosta

**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 11<sup>th</sup>** Salavachi & Brahollari Families in honor of Niko & Nikolas Nameday

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** Chris Manosis in honor of his Nameday **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, Helen Theokary (2 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archimandrite Nikodhim Preston, Archbishop Mark, Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese, people in Ukraine, Newly Illuminated Theodora Holly, Costina & Michael Morrison, Florian & Andrew Garcia, 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)*



**Father Kai begins his ministry at St. John Chrysostom**

On Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 we will welcome Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze to our church family. Father Kai immigrated to the United States 12 years ago from the country of Georgia. He and his family, his wife, Ia, daughter Elene and sons, John and Nick have served at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Atlantic City for the past 11

years. They all are looking forward to joining our warm and loving church family. The beginning of the new year is a very busy time for all, especially at church. We have Theophany, the Icon Auction, home blessings (which Father Kai will start immediately) and many other events. We are planning to have a welcome luncheon and a thank you luncheon for our beloved Father Dennis - dates to be announced.



**Last Sunday was a very busy day for our Sunday school students:**

They paid tribute Albanian Flag day and to those who immigrated to the United States for opportunities to have a better life. We were also treated to a musical presentation by



the students. We had 2 violin players, a cello and a drummer! Such talented kids! The Sunday school students also decorated the church and the Christmas tree. All kids – no adults assisted in any way – all very beautiful. Thank you to our Sunday school students for a job well done and to our Sunday school Director, Fiori Papa.

**More Sunday school news:** December 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Christmas Card Alert:** Again, this year, 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 available at the candle stand or you can request the list of names by emailing: [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)

**Annual Icon Auction:** Date in January to be determined at the Parish Council Meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please return the icons you received in 2022 so that we can prepare for the upcoming auction.

**Church Store:** Looking for the perfect gift for a family member or friend? Check out the bookcase in the church hall. Aprons, ties, pins and more!

**New Church Website:** We are transitioning to a new website designed by our own Sergio Georgi. <https://stjcaoc.org/> *If you are able to help maintain the new Website, please contact Sergio or any member of Parish Council. No website experience necessary we will show you how to do it!*

**Father Dennis** will serve the Divine Liturgy at St. John Chrysostom, December 11, 18 and 24, 2022. Father Kai will begin his ministry at St. John's on Sunday January 1, 2023. We are so very grateful to Father Dennis for the love, support and guidance he has provided to our parish over the past 4 years.

**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!** **December Giving Paper Towels**