

The Weekly Messenger – February 12, 2023
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Upcoming Events:

Feb 12th Sunday of the Prodigal Son SOUP-ER Bowl Sunday
Feb 19th Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare) **Sunday School Fundraiser**
Feb 26th Forgiveness/Cheesefare Sunday **Feb 27th** Great Lent Begins
Sat. March 4th Women’s Day Celebration Dinner & Dancing **Contact Nilda S. for info**
March 5th Sunday of Orthodoxy Vesper Service @ 4:00 pm - Pan Orthodox Clergy
Brotherhood of Philadelphia. We will host other parishes and prepare a meal.
Monday, March 6th Parish Council Meeting @ 7:30 pm via ZOOM
Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 Presanctified Liturgy **6:00 pm**
March 12th Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
March 19th Veneration of the Cross **Saturday, March 25th** Annunciation
March 26th St. John Climacus **April 2nd** St Mary of Egypt
Saturday April 8th Lazarus Saturday **April 9th** Palm Sunday
April 14th Holy Friday **April 16th** Holy Pascha
April 23rd St Thomas **April 30th** Myrrh-bearing Women

Coffee Hour Sponsor: The 2023 Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule or sign up on our website: [COFFEE HOUR](#)

Feb 12th SOUP-ER BOWL Sunday Parishioners bring their special soup to share
Feb 19th Sunday School Hot Dog Sale **Feb 26th** NO SPONSOR
March 5th NO SPONSOR **March 12th** NO SPONSOR

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Paul Costa (Kathie Costa’s nephew). Nancy Gregory (8 yrs.), Paula Dardaris (12 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

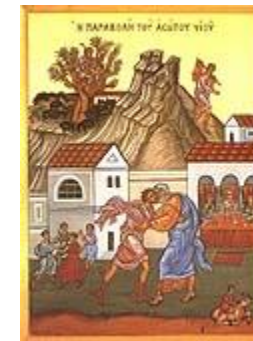
Commemorations for the Living: Archbishop Mark, Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese, Archimandrite Nikodhim Preston, the victims of the mass shootings in California, the people in Ukraine, Joyce Robert (Christine Dardaris’ Mother), John Jance, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Helen, Virginia Daka, Marie 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*

If you have news for the Weekly Messenger, please send it to info@stjcaoc.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: The Sunday School is organizing an outing to Sky-Zone trampoline park in Glen Mills, PA, sometime in March. In order to help fund this outing the Sunday School students are planning a fundraising day where the kids sell homemade things (some ideas were cupcakes/brownies/art work etc). This will be on Sunday, February 19th during their hot dog sale at coffee hour.

We are also happy to report we have two volunteers who have stepped forward to help out with teaching our students. Thank you, Kayla and Anastasia! We certainly welcome more volunteers to come forward. Lesson plans are prepared, we need adults to direct the lessons and teach our children!

Sunday of the Prodigal Son. And He said, ‘There was a man who had two sons....’ This is how Christ begins what is perhaps the greatest of his parables, the one we know as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but which could easily be titled the ‘Parable of the Two Sons’ or the ‘Parable of the Compassionate Father.’ With this parable, which we will hear at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 28, we are invited to enter the ‘school of repentance’—Great Lent—and sit at the feet of the Master, so that we can hear the words of eternal life and ‘keep them.’



After receiving his portion of the inheritance, even before his father had died, the younger of the two sons ‘gathered all that he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living’ [Luke 15:13]. This one sober understatement does not demand a great deal of imagination to yield its meaning. We know that *loose living* refers to a web of wrong choices, bad company, unrestrained satisfaction of ‘the passions,’ and forgetfulness of God. This spiritually suicidal combination leads to bankruptcy on a further series of interrelated levels: the material, moral/ethical and spiritual. In no time, the prodigal son is forced to feed ‘on the pods that the swine ate’ [Luke 15:16].

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.

Your 2023 Pledge: We are encouraging our parishioners to pledge online via our website: <https://stjcaoc.org/pledge/> or make a donation <https://stjcaoc.org/donate/> We gladly accept credit card donations online as well as payments made automatically from your checking account. If you do send a check please be sure to look at your bank account to make sure the check has cleared. We have ongoing problems with mail deliver at church. Thank you to those who made a pledge in 2022.

February monthly giving – bottles of water