

The Weekly Messenger – January 1, 2023  
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church  
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Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

*Çëzuar Vitin E Ri!  
Happy New Year!*

**Upcoming Events:**

**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 Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule or sign up on our website: [COFFEE HOUR](#)

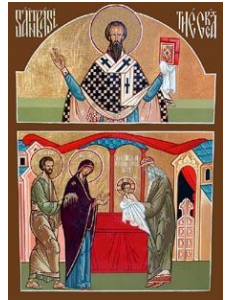
**Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023** Parish Council  
**Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** Kosta Family in Memory of Peter & Xhoxhi Family in Honor of Jani’s Nameday  
**Jan 15<sup>th</sup>** No sponsor  
**Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>** Prifti Family **Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** No Sponsor

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Nick Zoto (2 yrs.), Elaine Quiras (7 yrs.), June Mitrocsak (7 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. We hope you can join us.

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God’s Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].



After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.

**Home Blessings:** If you would like Father Kai to visit you home in Jan. 2020, please sign up on the sheet at the candle stand, call Father Kai 484-843-4209 or, email [fr.kai@stjcaoc.org](mailto:fr.kai@stjcaoc.org) with your name, address and phone number. Father Kai will contact you to arrange a date and time for his visit. What to have ready for your home blessing: *An Icon, candle, small bowl for Holy Water, List of family names to be prayed for one column living, one column departed.*

**Soup-er Bowl Sunday:** We will have our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb. <sup>nd</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking our parishioners to donate a homemade soup. We will offer the soup at coffee hour for a small donation. The proceeds will be donated to a nearby homeless shelter.

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

**Our Christmas Letter** was sent vis US Mail. The letter is posted on our website. If you sent a check to the church, please look at your bank account to be sure the check has cleared. The mail delivery by the US Postal service is a bit unreliable. 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,

**Per Shume Vjet Gezuar! January Namedays:** 1st St. Basil, 7th St John the Baptist, 11th St Theodosius, 14th St Nina, 17th St Anthony, 18th St Athanasius, 20th St Euthymius, 23rd St Dionysius of Korca, 25th St Gregory, Jan 30th Hierarchs (Basil, Gregory, John Chrysostom)

**Welcome to our visitors.** Father Kai and 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.

**January Giving Napkins**