

The Weekly Messenger – November 27, 2022
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-563-0979
Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Upcoming Events:

Nov 28th Albanian Flag Day/Independence Day

Dec 4th Memorial for Michael, Kevin & Charlie Ryan,

Dec 4th Sunday School Honors our Ancestors & Albanian Flag Day /Decorate Church

Dec 18th Sunday School Pageant

Saturday, Dec 24th Nativity Liturgy @ 4:00 pm (Father Dennis)

Coffee Hour Sponsor:

Nov 27th Parish Council **Dec 4th** Colleen & Sergio Georgi in Memory of Michael, Kevin & Charlie Ryan Colleen's brothers

Dec 11th Salavachi & Brahollari Families in honor of Niko & Nikolas Nameday

Dec 18th Chris Manosis in honor of his Nameday **Dec 25th** No Coffee Hour

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, the victim of the mass shootings in Colorado and Virginia, Marcie Moore (9 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, 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*

New Church Website: We are transitioning to a new website designed by our own Sergio Georgi. <https://stjcaoc.org/> Take a look it has the following features:

- Free of charge.
- Modern responsive site with auto resizing.
- Enjoy the whole screen space and now own the logo and titles too.
- Double the space. We will have 20GB quota instead of 10GB we have with web solutions.
- Ability to backup our own data and restore in case something happen to the site.
- All weekly-messengers, parish meetings notes are all archived in their own pages. This took long but completed.
- Don't forget to visit the little flying *translate* button on top right corner and translate pages on fly between Albanian and English, just pick the proper flag.

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!

Leavetaking of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos Into the Temple Commemorated on November 25 According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God. When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.



Flag Day/Independence Day Date: November 28 Dita e Pavarësisë ("Independence Day" in English) was declared in 1912 by Ismail Qemali, founder of the modern Albanian state and its first head of state and government. After five hundred years of Ottoman domination, an independent Albania was proclaimed on November 28, 1912. On this

day the Albanian flag was raised by Ismail Qemali in Flora, Albania to publicly proclaim the independence of Albania from its Ottoman authorities.

History of Independence Day: During the fifteenth century Albania enjoyed a brief period of independence under the legendary hero, Skanderbeg. Aside from this period of rule, the country did not enjoy independence until the twentieth century. During the 19th century, Albanians resisted the Turks attempts to assimilate Albania. The leaders of Albania led their country with the rallying cry "The religion of Albanians is Albanianism!" They formed the Albanian League in 1878 to unite the country, adopt a new alphabet, and develop the native language, education, and literature. In 1908, the Albanians fought again, and by 1912, they succeeded in making the Turks agree to their demands for autonomy.

Next Sunday, December 4th We will gather after the Divine Liturgy to decorate the Christmas tree and put up decorations in the church and in the church hall.

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 Dennis - Thank you for serving today!

November Giving Napkins