

The Weekly Messenger – March 5, 2023

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-563-0979

Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai) 484-843-4209 fr.kai@stjcaoc.org

Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: info@stjcaoc.org

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Upcoming Events:

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 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 Presanctified Liturgy **6:00 pm**

March 12th Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

March 19th Veneration of the Cross 1 year Memorial Dorothy Tomassini

Saturday, March 25th Annunciation

March 26th St. John Climacus 40 Day Memorial Vasilika Mihilli

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](#)

March 5th Alfred Coni & Margarita Sevi in honor of Fred's Nameday St. Harrallambi

March 12th Roxane Ghicondey

March 19th Miss Dorothy's Family in her Memory

March 26th Elvira & Erion Gusho in memory of Vasilika Mihilli

April 2nd NO SPONSOR

April 9th Pancake breakfast

April 16th Pascha

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Thoma, Vasilika Mihilli (Elvira Gusho's mother), Tuta Doko, Paul Costa (Kathie Costa's nephew), 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), Julius, Stephanos Sarris, 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*

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy: Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. The first Sunday is called the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 Jn 5.4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Gen 1.26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image.

Sunday March 5th @ 4:00 pm TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY VESPER SERVICE sponsored by the Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Philadelphia. We are honored to host this very important service. Following the service, we will host a light Lenten dinner in the church hall. If you are able to prepare and donate a dish for this light dinner, please let us know!

Father Kai will serve Pre-sanctified Liturgy Wednesday evenings @ 6:00pm.

We plan to have Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and fellowship in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy. ***Father Kai will serve Presanctified liturgy every Wednesday, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, April 5th beginning at 6:00 pm.*** It is a beautiful service and we ask you and your families attend.

Home Blessings: Father Kai is waiting for your call or email! He looks forward to visiting your home and meeting you and your family in the next few months! Please call Father Kai directly, 484-843-4209 or email 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.* We haven't had home blessing in a number of years. This is a great opportunity to have your home blessed and meet Father Kai!

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.

March Namedays Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar! To our parishioners who celebrate their Nameday in March: 10th St. Theodore the General, 17th St. Alexander, 25th The Annunciation

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.

Monthly Giving for March: paper napkins.