

The Weekly Messenger – January 8, 2023
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Upcoming Events:

Jan 6th Theophany/Epiphany

Jan 8th 10-year memorial Peter Kosta Blessing of water for Theophany/Epiphany

Monday Jan 9th Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

Jan 22nd and 29th Icon Auction

Feb 12th 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 8th Kosta Family in Memory of Peter & Xhoxhi Family in Honor of Jani’s Nameday

Jan 15th No sponsor

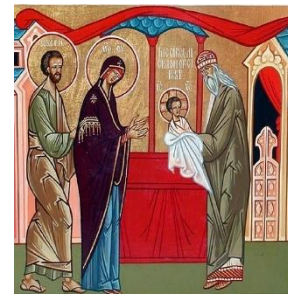
Jan 22nd Prifti Family

Jan 29th No Sponsor

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Peter Kosta (10 yrs.), Kristo Diamanti (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: Archbishop Mark, Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese, Archimandrite Nikodhim Preston, people in Ukraine, 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*

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.



Theophany Liturgy: We will be celebrating the Feast of Theophany/Epiphany on Sunday January 8th 2023. Father Kai will say prayers for the blessing of the water following the Divine Liturgy.

“The joy of Epiphany is in the recovery of a cosmic experience of the world, of recovering faith that everything and everyone can always be washed, purified, renewed, reborn and that regardless of how dirty and clouded with mud our life has become, no matter what swamp we might have rolled in, we always have access to a purifying stream of living water, because humanity’s thirst for heaven, goodness, perfection and beauty is not dead, nor can it ever die. Indeed, this thirst alone makes us human beings. “Great are You, our Lord, and marvelous are your works, and there are not words which suffice to hymn Your wonders...” Who said Christianity is depressing and grim, morbid and sad, and pulls human beings away from life? Look at the faces of worshippers that night and see the light and joy that shines as they listen to the psalm thundering its exultation, “The voice of the Lord is upon the waters” (Ps 29:3), as they watch the priest sprinkling volleys of blessed water throughout the church and those glittering drops fly as if throughout the whole world, making that world once again a possibility and a promise, the raw material for a mysterious miracle of transformation and transfiguration. God Himself entered this water in the form of a man; He united Himself not only with humanity, but also with all matter and made all of it a radiant, light-bearing stream flowing towards life and joy.” (Fr. Alexandre Schmemmann)

Annual Icon Auction: Many Icons have not been returned. Please bring them to church so we will have them for our Icon Auction on January 22 and 29, 2023

Home Blessings: Father Kai looks forward to visiting your home and meeting you and your family in the next few months! Please sign up on the sheet at the candle stand or 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.*

Soup-er Bowl Sunday: We will have our 8th Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb. 12th following the Divine Liturgy during coffee hour in the church hall. We are asking our parishioners to donate a homemade soup. We will offer the donated soup for a small donation. We will also have soup available to purchase and take home. 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! If the @stjcaoc does not appear please search charities using **Saint John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church** Do not use St. as nothing will come up.

January Giving Napkins