

The Weekly Messenger – November 19, 2023
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Nov 18th Vespers at 5:00 pm

Wednesday, Nov 15th Nativity Fast Begins

Monday, Nov 20th 6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy Presentation of the Theotokos

Saturday, Nov 25th Vespers @ 5:00 pm

Nov 28th Albanian Flag Day/Independence Day Celebration at City Hall 11:00 am

Dec 3rd Sunday School Honors our Ancestors & Albanian Flag Day

Saturday, Dec 9th Decorate the church at 3:30 pm Vespers @ 5:00 pm

Dec 17th Sunday school pageant

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, Theodore Gregory, Valentina Rhodes (6 yrs.), Michael Cosmo (6 yrs.), Angelo Douris (10 yrs.), Katherine Dardaris (18 yrs.), Jorgaq (Gaqi) Qendro (28 yrs.), Alex Stavrou (37 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

Commemorations for the Living: His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim, Father Joseph Ciarciaglino, the Veterans in this Parish, the people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, newly married Cindy & Edvin Vasu, newly married Anastasia Khomeriki & Wilfredo Carlos Boyrie, Cindy Caponi, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, Paulette Steffa, Karen, Eugene Angelidis (Roxane Ghicondey's brother). Jim Bendo, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Virginia Daka, 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*

Coffee Hour Sponsor:

Nov 19th Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of +Michael

Nov 26th Tatiana Plesati & Family in memory of Jorgaq (Gaqi) Qendro

Dec 3rd Janice & Mike Leyden

Dec 10th Salavaci-Brahollari Families in honor of Niko & Nikolas Nameday

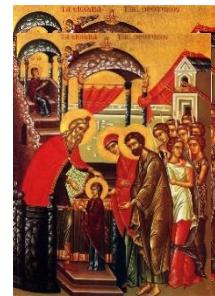
Dec 17th Chris Manosis in honor of his Nameday

Dec 24th NO COFFEE HOUR

Dec 31st NO COFFEE HOUR

Christmas Sock and Under ware Drive: Linda Croke and Linda Notskas are collecting socks and under ware for the homeless. A box will be located in the vestibule near the candle stand. Please drop off a package of socks or under ware or both!

Monthly giving for November – Bottles of water



Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple November 21st

The second great feast of the Theotokos is the celebration of her entrance as a child into the Jerusalem Temple which is commemorated on the twenty-first of November. Like the feast of her nativity, this feast of Mary is without direct biblical and historical reference. But like the nativity, it is a feast filled with important spiritual significance for the Christian believer. According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to

God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

Nameday Celebration: It was a very wonderful day for our parish. A beautiful Liturgy, and sermon by Bishop Nikodhim followed by exceptional food and fellowship. Thank you so very much to our parishioners who brought food, set up, ate food, cleaned up, took home tablecloths to wash and helped out in any other way. Special thanks to our kitchen crew Mike Leyden, Steve Coraluzzi, Tom Moore, Linda Croke, Colleen Xhoxhi, Arianna, Athanasius, Elias Mondlak. What a great team!



Message from our Sunday School Students: This time of year, we believe we should find ways to help those less fortunate than us. So, the middle and high school students are participating in a Holiday Gift Drive organized by the Committee to Benefit the Children at St Christopher's Hospital and we need your help! The Committee to Benefit the Children helps children with leukemia, other cancers, sickle cell anemia, and bleeding disorders and their families, especially those who struggle financially. We have signed up to sponsor a family for their holiday drive this year. We are asking for donations from you to help us purchase the things on each of these children's wish list. Any donation, big or small, is appreciated. We will be putting out donation baskets every Sunday for the next few weeks and you can also donate online. Please just note that the donation is for the Sunday School service project. Thank you for your help in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas and bringing joy and love to those that need it most.

Nativity Fast: The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on **November 15 and concluding on December 24**, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us *conscious of our dependence upon God*.