

The Weekly Messenger – November 26, 2023

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

### Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Vespers @ 5:00 pm**

**Nov 26<sup>th</sup>** 40 day Memorial Zhaneta Pellumbi

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

**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** Sunday School Honors our Ancestors & Albanian Flag Day

**Saturday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup>** Decorate the church at 3:30 pm Vespers @ 5:00 pm

**Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** 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, Zhaneta Pellumbi (40 days), Jorgaq (Gaqi) Qendro (28 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 Vasiu, 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](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

### **Coffee Hour Sponsor:**

**Nov 26<sup>th</sup>** Tatiana Plesati & Family in memory of Jorgaq (Gaqi) Qendro

Linda Pellumbi & Bujar Qinami in memory of Zhaneta Pellumbi

**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** Janice & Mike Leyden

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** Salavaci-Brahollari Families in honor of Niko & Nikolas Nameday

**Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** Chris Manosis in honor of his Nameday

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> NO COFFEE HOUR**

**Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 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**

### **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.

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2013/11/25/103392-leavetaking-of-the-entry-of-the-most-holy-theotokos-into-the-tem>

**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.

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 pm:** We will gather at church to decorate the Christmas tree in the church and the tree in the church hall. We hope you can bring your children/grandchildren and Godchildren to decorate the trees and then stay for Vespers at 5:00 pm.

**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.