

The Weekly Messenger – September 10, 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: 2 Corinthians 1:21-24 Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

Upcoming Events:

Sept 10th Blessing of the Backpacks for ALL students

Monday, Sept 11th 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM

Wednesday, Sept 13th 6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross

Sept 14-17 Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly and Ordinations and Consecration of our Bishop Elect, Nikodhim at St. George Cathedral, Boston, MA.

Sept 17th Father James Thayer will substitute for Father Kai who will be in Boston for the Consecration of Bishop Nikodhim

Saturday Sept 23rd Vespers 5:00 pm

Sept 24th Bishop Nikodhim will visit our parish. 1 year Memorial for Jonathan Rhodes

Oct 1st Memorial for Louis & Rosemary Notskas

Oct 22nd Semi-annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour

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

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon (4 yrs. On Sept 1st), the victims in Ukraine, Chris Daniels, Gregory Mallozzi, Peter Steffa (55 yrs.), Jaje Kevo (21 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, Bishop Elect of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese, Father Joseph Ciarciaglino, the people in Ukraine, newly illuminated Noah Stefan McCarty, Senada Prifti, Stela & Taylor McCarty, Eugene Angelidis (Roxane Ghicondey's brother). Eda Xhoxhi, 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: The Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule or sign up on our website: **COFFEE HOUR OPEN COFFEE HOUR DATES NOV 26th & DEC 3rd**

Sept 10th Papa Family in honor of Elias' Birthday and Nameday (there will be cake!)

Sept 17th Carolyn & Mike Dardaris

Sept 24th Parishioners will bring their specialties as the Bishop will visit

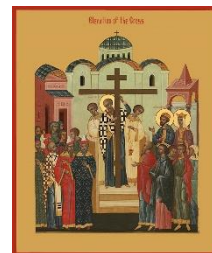
Oct 1st Sarkissian and Notskas Families in memory of Louis & Rosemary Notskas

Oct 8th Colleen & Sergio Georgi

Monthly Giving for September – Snacks for Sunday School

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost To Be Chosen for The Kingdom

The Lord spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again, he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard of it, he was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to look at the guests he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”



VESPERAL LITURGY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th @ 6:00 pm for The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. On the day of the Feast at the conclusion of the Matins or of the Divine Liturgy, a special service is held. The Cross is placed on a tray surrounded by

branches of basil and is taken in solemn procession through the church to the chanting of the Hymn of the Feast. The tray is placed on a table, and the priest takes the Cross and offers petitions from each side of the table, the four directions of the compass. This represents the universal nature of the offering of Christ upon the Cross. As the people respond by chanting "Lord have mercy", the priest raises and lowers the cross, a commemoration of its finding and exaltation. At the conclusion of the service, the people come and venerate the cross and receive the basil from the priest. The basil is used and offered, as it was the fragrant flower growing where the Cross was found.



Father James Thayer will serve the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, September 17th, 2023 while Father Kai is in Boston for the Ordination and Consecration of Bishop elect Nikodhim. Please come to church on Sept 17th and extend a warm Albanian Welcome to Father James! We thank Father James in advance for serving at St. John Chrysostom which allowed Father Kai to attend the Consecration of newly Ordained Bishop Nikodhim.