

The Weekly Messenger – December 31, 2023  
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

*Gezuar Vitin E Ri!*  
*Happy New Year!*

**Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> VESPERS 5:00pm

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am

Jan 1, 2024 1 Year Anniversary of Father Kai and Prifteresha Ia arriving at St. Johns

Saturday Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Divine Liturgy 10:00 am, Blessing of the Water for Theophany/Epiphany  
Baptism of Wesley David Lewis-Hanson following the Divine Liturgy

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> Lesser blessing of the water and Icon Auction Part 1 during Coffee Hour

We will celebrate Father Kai's 1 year anniversary at St. Johns during coffee hour

Monday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

Saturday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Memorial for +Charles Petro

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 3-year Memorial +Nick Zoto Icon Auction Part 2 during coffee hour

Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 2-year Memorial +Marika Sarkos

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Soup-er Bowl Sunday

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, Protospesbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, Nick Zoto (3 yrs.), Elaine Quiras (8 yrs.), June Mitrocsak (8 yrs.), Charles Petro, Cindy Caponi, 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 people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, Teri Douris, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, 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:** sign-up on the sheet or click this link [CoffeeHourSignup](#)

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> NO COFFEE HOUR

Jan 7, 2024 Parish Council

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> Zoto Family in Memory of +Nick Jan 21<sup>st</sup> Sarkos/Mondlak Family in memory

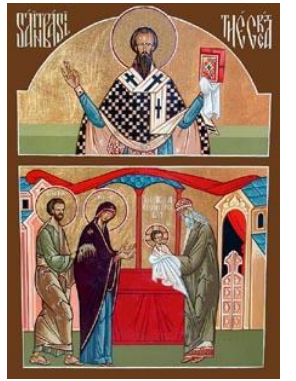
Jan 28<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR

of Marika

**Monthly giving for January – Napkins**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].

After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.



**BAPTISM:** Amy Lewis and Wes Hanson will baptize their son, Wesley David Lewis-Hanson, on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 following the Divine Liturgy (which will begin at 10:00am.). David was born on November 3, 2023. His Godparents will be Elena Shomos and Zach Smith. Our parishioners are invited to attend the Baptism.

**Home Blessings:** If you would like Father Kai to visit you home in Jan. 2024, call Father Kai 484-843-4209 or, email [fr.kai@stjcaoc.org](mailto:fr.kai@stjcaoc.org) If Father Kai does not answer your call leave a message with your name, address and phone number. He 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 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking our parishioners to make a homemade soup. We will offer the soup at coffee hour for a small donation. The proceeds will be donated to a nearby homeless shelter.

**Annual Icon Auction:** January 7<sup>th</sup> \* 14<sup>th</sup> 2024. **We ask that you return the Icon/s** you received last year so that we can prepare for the 2024 Auction. A list of Icons available for bids will be on our website. Even if you are not able to attend the Icon Auction you can still submit a bid or make a donation in honor of your patron saint. If you bid on an Icon in 2023 and have not made your donation there is still time. Please send a check or go online [DONATE](#) and submit your donation. Thank you!

**Per Shume Vjet Gezuar! January Namedays:** 1st St. Basil, 7th St John the Baptist, 11th St Theodosius, 14th St Nina, 17th St Anthony, 18th St Athanasius, 20th St Euthymius, 23rd St Dionysius of Korca, 25th St Gregory, Jan 30th Hierarchs (Basil, Gregory, John Chrysostom)

**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.