

The Weekly Messenger – January 14, 2024
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Home Blessings: Father Kai wants to visit and bless your home in 2024. Call Father Kai 484-843-4209 or, email 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.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Jan 13th Vespers 5:00 pm **6:00 pm** Memorial for +Charles Petro
Jan 14th 3-year Memorial +Nick Zoto Icon Auction Part 2 during coffee hour
Saturday, Jan 20th Vespers 5:00 pm **Jan 21st** 2-year Memorial +Marika Sarkos
Saturday, Jan 27th Vespers 5:00 pm
Saturday, Feb 3rd Vespers 5:00 pm **Feb 4th** 3-year Memorial +Bessie Satir
Saturday, Feb 10th Vespers 5:00 pm **Feb 11th** Soup-er Bowl Sunday
Monday, Feb 12th Parish Council Meeting 7:30pm via ZOOM all invited to attend
Saturday, Feb 17th Vespers 5:00 pm
Saturday Feb 24th Vespers 5:00 pm with Bishop Nikodhim followed by Philly Dinner in Hall
Feb 25th Divine Liturgy with Bishop Nikodhim
Monday March 18th Great Lent Begins

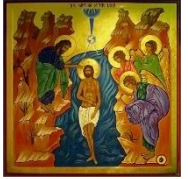
Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, William Rubis, Charles Petro, Cindy Caponi, Irene Gedremenec (3 yrs.), Philip Kosta (6 yrs.), Deacon 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 people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, newly illuminated David Edmond Lewis-Hanson, Amy Lewis, Wesley Hanson, Elena Shomos, Zach Smith, Teri Douris, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, Karen, Eugene Angelidis 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*

SOCK AND UNDERWEAR DRIVE TO CONTINUE It's not too late to donate socks or underwear for the homeless. The box is in the vestibule. Collecting through the end of January.

This Sunday, the Sunday following the Great Feast of Theophany,

speaks to us from the gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 4 Verses 12-17, about the beginning of Jesus' work and ministry in Galilee, for it was like a great light which began to shine on all. After all Theophany is the Feast of Lights. This is the fulfillment of the prophecy when Jesus went to the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali to begin his earthly ministry to the people who lived in darkness, but saw a great light! "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand".



True repentance means a deliberate and decisive resolve to change course and to embark on a new direction. You see, brothers and sisters, repentance is God's offer to us for a fresh start. God calls us to take off the old mantle and clothe ourselves with the love and forgiveness that He freely offers to us, liberating whatever enslaves us and keeps us from his abiding love. God told us to concentrate and turn our eyes from ourselves and rather look toward God and His kingdom: "Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom is near!" The good news of this gospel is the Kingdom of God is always near...the Kingdom of God is God Himself in his personal presence, gracious power, healing forgiveness and renewing love experienced through Christ. In conclusion as we affirm our faith in Christ and practice his teachings daily in whatever we do, the new creation takes hold in us, helping us to maintain a right relationship with God, ourselves, others and everything in the world.

Congratulations and Many Years to newly baptized David Edmond Lewis-Hanson, son of Amy Lewis & Wes Hanson., Devid Edmond was baptized last Saturday. His Godparents are Elena Shomos and Zach Smith. Amy & Wes live in Maryland but chose to come back to St. John's to have their son Baptized. Blessing to the Lewis-Hanson & Shomos-Smith Families.

Soup-er Bowl Sunday: We will have our 9th Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb.11th following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking our parishioners bring a pot of soup for this fundraiser. We will offer the soup at coffee hour for a small donation. The proceeds will be donated to a nearby homeless shelter

Bishop Nikodhim will visit St. Johns Feb 24th and Feb 25th. As is our custom we will have a luncheon following the Divine Liturgy on Feb 25th. We are asking our parishioners to make their special dish to share with all at coffee hour. Please mark this date and plan to attend and welcome our Bishop.

Coffee Hour Sponsor: sign-up on the sheet or click this link [CoffeeHourSignup](#)

Jan 14th Zoto Family in Memory of +Nick

Jan 21st Sarkos/Mondlak Family in memory of +Marika

Jan 28th Sunday School Hot Dog Sale

Feb 4th Satir Family in memory of +Bessie

Feb 11th Souper Bowl Sunday

Feb 18th Alfred Coni & Margarita Sevi in honor of Alfred's Nameday, Shën Harrallambi

Feb 25th Bishop Nikodhim visits Parishioners bring their specialties

Monthly giving for January – Napkins