

The Weekly Messenger – January 7, 2024  
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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Epistle: Acts 19:1-8 Gospel: John 1:29-34

*Gëzuar Vitin E Ri!  
Happy New Year!*

**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](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.*

**Upcoming Events:**

**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

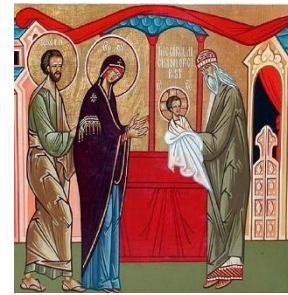
**Jan 21<sup>st</sup>** 2-year Memorial +Marika Sarkos

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

**Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>** 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, Charles Petro, Cindy Caponi, Kristo Diamanti (3 yrs.), Joe Gjoka (35), 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)*



**Theophany Liturgy:** We will be celebrating the Feast of Theophany/Epiphany on Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2023. Father Kai will say prayers for the blessing of the water following the Divine Liturgy.

“The joy of Epiphany is in the recovery of a cosmic experience of the world, of recovering faith that everything and everyone can always be washed, purified, renewed, reborn and that regardless of how dirty and clouded with mud our life has become, no matter what swamp we might have rolled in, we always have access to a purifying stream of living water, because humanity's thirst for heaven, goodness, perfection and beauty is not dead, nor can it ever die. Indeed, this thirst alone makes us human beings. “Great are You, our Lord, and marvelous are your works, and there are not words which suffice to hymn Your wonders...” Who said Christianity is depressing and grim, morbid and sad, and pulls human beings away from life? Look at the faces of worshippers that night and see the light and joy that shines as they listen to the psalm thundering its exultation, “The voice of the Lord is upon the waters” (Ps 29:3), as they watch the priest sprinkling volleys of blessed water throughout the church and those glittering drops fly as if throughout the whole world, making that world once again a possibility and a promise, the raw material for a mysterious miracle of transformation and transfiguration. God Himself entered this water in the form of a man; He united Himself not only with humanity, but also with all matter and made all of it a radiant, light-bearing stream flowing towards life and joy.” (Fr. Alexandre Schmemmann)

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

**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 of Marika

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

**Feb 4<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR**

**Feb 11<sup>th</sup>** Souper Bowl Sunday

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup>** Alfred Coni & Margarita Sevi in honor of Alfred's Nameday, Shën Harrallambi

**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.

**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 January.

**2024 Calendars** are available in the front vestibule. Our thanks to Vraim Funeral Home for donating the calendars to our parish.

**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.

**Monthly giving for January – Napkins**

