

**The Weekly Messenger – August 25, 2024**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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**This Week Epistle: Corinthians 3:9-17 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34**

**Next Week Epistle Timothy 2:1-7 Gospel Luke 4:16-22**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Aug 25<sup>th</sup>** Memorial for members of Vasil Papakroni's Family - Dhimitër (40 days)

\* Thanas (1 year), \* Vasil (Frederik) (2 years), \* Andrea, \* Andromaqi, \* Llambi.

**Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>** Nativity of the Theotokos

**Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**Friday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>** Archdiocesan Assembly @ Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

With the grace of God, the Archdiocese looks forward to V, Rev. Dennis Rhodes receiving monastic tonsure prior to the beginning of the Assembly on Friday morning.

**Saturday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>** Archdiocesan Divine Liturgy @ Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

With the grace of God, the Archdiocese looks forward to Dn. Juxhin's ordination to the priesthood at the Liturgy of our annual assembly this September.

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** Memorial Jonathan Rhodes 2 yrs and Harry Mallios 1 yr.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, Archpriest John Scollard, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, Dhimiter, Thanas, Vasil, Andra, Andromaqi, Llambi, Marion Mallios, Sotir Suli, Katherine Zoidis (11 yrs.), Dylan Shepherd (11 yrs), Tom Detskias (19 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 Ciarcigliano, the people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, Reader Chris Manosis, Jimmy Kosta, Michael Dardaris, Lee Constantine Elia, Virginia Rubis, Teri Douris, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, 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)*

**We need Coffee Hour Sponsors for August and Sept. Please sponsor a coffee with your family or friends:** sign-up on the sheet or click this link [CoffeeHourSignup](#)

**Aug 25<sup>th</sup>** Papakroni Family

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup>** Liya

**Sept 8<sup>th</sup>** Greta Dilo

**Sept 15<sup>th</sup>** Betty Subashi

**Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>** Hot Dogs

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** Father Dennis & Sarah in memory of Jonathan Rhodes

**Coffee Hour open dates:** We do not have coffee hour sponsors for the following dates:

- Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, Oct 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 29<sup>th</sup>
- Please coordinate with a friend or family member and sponsor one of the remaining coffee hours!

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:** Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat was in the middle of the sea, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against it. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a spirit!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the mighty wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind became calm. And those in the boat came and worshipped Jesus, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

**The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John Commemorated on August 29**

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt. 14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

**Sunday School News:** We have 5 people who have volunteered to help with the Sunday school. We need at least 2 more volunteers as people are not able to come to church every Sunday. We also need someone to be the Director of the program which entails making sure we have teachers each Sunday and that the already prepared lesson plans are distributed. **We need volunteers for the Sunday School Program to continue.** Teaching experience is not necessary - Teachers do not have to prepare lesson plans and do not have to be in church every Sunday. In order to have a successful program **we must have teachers and parents must bring their children to church on Sunday.** Contact Father Kai if you are willing to help.

