

**The Weekly Messenger – September 15, 2024**  
**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)

**This Week Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: John 3:13-17**  
**Next Week Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** 11 AM Albanian Liturgy-Vasil Papakroni will assist Fr. Kai Exaltation of the Cross

**Sept 15<sup>th</sup>** Procession of the Holy Cross Sunday School and Blessing of the Backpacks

**Friday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>** Archdiocesan Assembly @ Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church  
Through the grace of God, the Archdiocese looks forward to V, Rev. Dennis Rhodes receiving monastic tonsure prior to the Assembly on Friday morning. The Service will begin at 9:00 am followed by the Archdiocesan Meeting 10:00 am. Cocktail/Dinner 6:00 pm @ Dockside, Bensalem PA. Tickets for the dinner are \$70.00 which includes beer & wine, buffet dinner, dessert. Cash Bar.

**Saturday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am** Divine Liturgy @ Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church.  
Through the grace of God, the Archdiocese looks forward to Dn. Juxhin's (Eugene's) ordination to the priesthood.

**Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>** First day of Sunday School

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

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup>** 40-day Memorial +Theodhora Shyti

**Oct 7<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM @ 7:30 pm

**Oct 20<sup>th</sup>** Semi-annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour **Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** Fall Costume Party

**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, Theodhora Shyti, Jaje Kevo (22 yrs.), Peter Steffa (46 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 Eminence, Archbishop Nikodhim, Father Joseph Ciarciaaglino, the people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, Reader Chris Manosis, Jimmy Kosta, Lee Constantine Elia, 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)*

**Coffee Hour We have only 1 open Date – December 29, 2024.** Thank you to our sponsors!

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

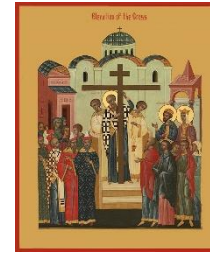
**Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>** Hot Dogs

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** Father Dennis & Sarah in memory of +Jonathan Rhodes & the family of +Theodhora Shyti in her memory

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup>** Bendo Family

**Oct 13<sup>th</sup>** Prifti/Petuqi Family **Oct 20<sup>th</sup>** Lakuriqi Family

**Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** Fall Costume Party



**LITURGY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am 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.

Most of the Liturgy will be in Albanian.

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** At that time, a man asked Jesus a very important question. He asked, "What do I need to do to get to heaven? Jesus helped him remember God's commandments, like "do not steal, and do not kill." Jesus also reminded the man that we should love our neighbor. The man said that he had kept all the commandments. Jesus then told him that if he wanted to be perfect, he could do one more thing--he could sell what he owned, give the money to the poor, and follow Jesus as a disciple. The man became sad, because he owned many things and did not want to give them up to follow Jesus

**Thank you to Linda Kosta** for buying the flowers and decorating the Holy Cross used in today's Exaltation of the Cross. Linda has prepared the Holy Cross for the Divine Liturgy for many years and we are very grateful for her time and talent!



**Our Congratulation to:** Luiza and Niko Salavachi who celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and to Elena Shomos & Zach Smith who celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We were happy to sing Many Years to both couples last Sunday! We love to share parishioner news in the Messenger. Send to <mailto:info@stjcaoc.org>

**Sunday School:** The first day of Sunday school is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to Ilirjan Papa who will be the Sunday school coordinator/director for the 2024-2025 school year. We can still use a couple more volunteers to help out with the program. Please contact Father Kai Ilirjan Papa if you are willing to assist.

**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.

**VESPER Services Return to St. Johns:** September 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm

**Monthly Giving for September: Bottle Water 4 or 8 oz.**