

**The Weekly Messenger – November 24, 2024**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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**This Week Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27**  
**Next Week Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Thursday, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>** Albanian Flag Day/Independence Day

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** 40-Day Memorial Katherine Costa

**Wednesday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

**Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>** 6:00 pm vesperal liturgy for St Nicholas

**Saturday Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** Decorate the church for Christmas @ 3:00 pm followed by Vespers

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** 40-Day Memorial Reader +Chris Manosis

**Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>** Sunday School Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy  
and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus during coffee hour.

**Tuesday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Vesperal Liturgy @ 4:00 pm

**Wednesday Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims of the war in the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Reader Christopher Manosis, Virginia Watson, Kathrine Costa, Connie Douris, Marlene Robos, Valentina Rhodes (7 yrs.), Michael Cosmo (7 yrs.), Angelo Douris (11 yrs.), Katherine Dardaris (19 yrs.), Alex Stavrou (38 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

**Commemorations for the Living:** His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim Archpriest Matthew Tate, the people affected by the war in the Middle East, the people in Ukraine, Newly Illuminated Isla Constantina Brown, Ali, Kevin & Gus Brown, Gia Shepherd, Alex Petsis, Newborn Talulah Rose Krygier, Kristin Cosmo, Stephan & Ziggy Krygier, Paul Dimitri, John Bogdan, 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 All Coffee hour dates have a sponsor.** Thank you so very much!

**Nov 24<sup>th</sup>** Kane Family in Memory of Kathrine & Inspector Kane **Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** Pappas Family

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** Salavachi-Brahollari Families in honor of Niko & Nikolas Nameday

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** Family of +Reader Chris Manosis in his memory

**Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>** Stephanie & Victor Sarkissian in Memory of +Rosemary & +Louis Notskas

**Dec 29<sup>th</sup>** Andonetta Theokary in memory of her parents, brothers & sister

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 pm:** We will gather at church to decorate the Christmas tree in the church and the tree in the church hall. We hope you can bring your children and/or grandchildren and Godchildren to decorate the trees and then stay for Vespers at 5:00 pm.

**Leavetaking of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos Into the Temple Commemorated on November 25** According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God. When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called “Psalms of Ascent.”) The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2013/11/25/103392-leavetaking-of-the-entry-of-the-most-holy-theotokos-into-the-tem>

**Independence Day Date: November 28** Dita e Pavarësisë (“Independence Day” in English) was declared in 1912 by Ismail Qemali, founder of the modern Albanian state and its first head of state and government. After five hundred years of Ottoman domination, an independent Albania was proclaimed on November 28, 1912. On this day the Albanian flag was raised by Ismail Qemali in Flora, Albania to publicly proclaim the independence of Albania from its Ottoman authorities.

**History of Independence Day:** During the fifteenth century Albania enjoyed a brief period of independence under the legendary hero, Skanderbeg. Aside from this period of rule, the country did not enjoy independence until the twentieth century. During the 19th century, Albanians resisted the Turks attempts to assimilate Albania. The leaders of Albania led their country with the rallying cry “The religion of Albanians is Albanianism!” They formed the Albanian League in 1878 to unite the country, adopt a new alphabet, and develop the native language, education, and literature. In 1908, the Albanians fought again, and by 1912, they succeeded in making the Turks agree to their demands for autonomy.

**Christmas Sock and Underwear Drive:** Linda Croke and Linda Notskas are collecting socks and underwear for the homeless. A box will be located in the vestibule near the candle stand. Please drop off a package of socks or underwear or both!

**Thank you Paula Bendo** for making the 2025 Coffee Hour Sign Up Poster. It is posted in the side vestibule. Pick a date and sponsor a coffee hour in 2025!

**Parish Directory:** We would like to update our Parish Directory, last updated in 2019. Please go to this link and upload a photo of you and your family. If there have been additions to your family or an address or phone number change you can make that notation in the message section.

<https://stjcaoc.org/add-family-photos/>

**November Monthly Giving – Bottles of Water**