

**The Weekly Messenger – December 15, 2024**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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**This Week Epistle: II Timothy 1:8-18 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24**  
**Next Week Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** Divine Liturgy in mostly Albanian @ 11:00 am

**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 Vespers Liturgy @ 4:00 pm

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

**Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 2025** Blessing of the water and Part 1 of the Icon Auction during coffee hour

**Wednesday Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025** Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30pm

**Jan 12<sup>th</sup>** Part 2 of the Icon Auction during coffee hour

**Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>** Bishop Nikodhim will visit our Parish

**Feb 9<sup>th</sup>** Soup-er Bowl Sunday fundraiser for homeless

**Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** Women's Day Dance

**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, Helen Theokary (4 yrs.), George Douris (11 yrs), Peter Kosta (12 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, Paul Dimitri, John Bogdan, Lee Constantine Elia, Teri Douris, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Virginia Daka, Dhimitri Ndrecka, 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!

**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

**The 2025 Coffee Hour Sign up sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Please pick a date!**

**Communal Singing:** The Choir encourages our parishioners to join them singing on Sunday. If you would like to sing - quietly or even a little louder while seated in the pews – please do so. Of course, the choir is always looking for members. Please speak with Vlad or Susan Melnik or Father Kai if you are interested in singing in the choir.

**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke:** On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.



**Enjoying Lunch Together:** some our our parishioner got together to enjoy a Christmas lunch

**Thank you** Greta, Frank, Michele, John, Linda N., Vlad, Susan, John, Elaine and Linda C. for decorating the tree and church so BEAUTIFULLY!



**Christmas Card Alert:** We are asking our parishioners to send Christmas cards to those who are not able to come to church and those who are ill. If you have someone who could use some holiday cheer, please send us their name & address. A list will be available at the candle stand or you can request the list of names by emailing: [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)

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

**Sunday school:** December 22<sup>nd</sup> following the Divine Liturgy, the Sunday school will present their annual Christmas Pageant. The most precious kids in the Philadelphia area attend St. Johns and this is a must-see event. Bring your kids, your grandkids, nieces, nephews and your camera. You don't want to miss the pageant. Santa and Mrs. Clause will visit in the church hall during coffee hour.

**Annual Icon Auction:** January 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 2025. **We ask that you return the Icon so that we can prepare for the 2025 Auction** If you bid on an Icon in 2024 and have not made your donation for your 2024 Icon please send a check or go online [DONATE](#) Thank you!

**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.

**December Monthly Giving – Your Christmas Donation**