

The Weekly Messenger – December 29, 2024
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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This Week Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-33

Next Week Epistle: II Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!
KRISHTI LINDI! LAVDËROJENI ATË

Upcoming Events:

Dec 29th 5-year Memorial Father John Kuchta (Vlad Melnik's Uncle)

Jan 5th 2025 Blessing of the water and Part 1 of the Icon Auction during coffee hour

Wednesday Jan 8th, 2025 Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30pm

Jan 12th Part 2 of the Icon Auction during coffee hour

Jan 19th 1 year Memorial James Bendo

Jan 26th 3-year Memorial Marika Sarkos

Feb 2nd Bishop Nikodhim will visit our Parish

Feb 9th Soup-er Bowl Sunday fundraiser for homeless

Saturday, March 8th Women's Day Dance

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Protospesbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims of the war in the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Matuska Jeanne Ann Ciarciaglino, Rosemary & Louis Notskas, Fr. John Kuchta (5 yrs), Helen Theokary, Sofia Theokary, Nikolas Theokary, Michael Theokary, Raphael Theokary, Vani Theokary, Nick Zoto (4 yrs.), Elaine Quirias (9 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, Father Joseph Ciarciaglino and his family, Newly Illuminated Kevin Immanuel Begaj, Ilir Gremi, Marjana Kokuri, Marjorie, 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*

Coffee Hour All Coffee hour dates have a sponsor. Thank you so very much!

Dec 29th Andonetta Theokary in memory of her parents, brothers & sister

Jan 5th Begaj Family in honor of Kevin Immanuel's Baptism on Dec. 25th

Jan 12th NO SPONSOR

Jan 19th Bendo Family in memory of Jim 1 year

Jan 26th Sarkos/Mondlak Family in memory of Marika 3 years

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



Sunday after the Nativity: Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James



Bravo to our Sunday School students for a wonderful Christmas Pageant! Everyone did a great job, Narrators, Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. A perfect day. Many thanks to Paula Bendo and Tom Moore for their participation as Santa and Mrs. Clause during coffee hour. The kids were so happy!



Only two weeks left to donate Christmas Sock and Underwear: 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!

Annual Icon Auction: January 5th & 12th 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 the donation for your 2024 Icon, please send a check or go online [DONATE](#) to fulfill your bid. Thank you!

If you mailed a Christmas donation to the church, please to check you bank statements to be sure any checks you sent to the church have been cashed. We continue to struggle with the delivery of mail to the church.

Since Father Kai will be away for most of January he will begin Home blessings in February 2025 If you would like Father Kai to visit you home call 484-843-4209 or, email 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.*

Thank you for serving today, Hieromonk Danaks (Father Dennis)

Çezuar Vitin E Ri! Happy New Year!