

**The Weekly Messenger – December 8, 2024**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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**This Week Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-23 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**  
**Next Week Epistle: II Timothy 1:8-18 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24**

**Upcoming Events:**

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

**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

**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, Connie Douris, Mary Croke (9 yrs.), Gregory Bendo (10 yrs.), Hariklia Kiki Notskas (26 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, 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 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

**Thank you, Paula Bendo, for making the 2025 Coffee Hour sign up poster. Please take a moment to sign up to sponsor a coffee hour in 2025!**

**2024 Pledge Drive** - As we enter the final month of the year, we are falling short of our goal of \$65,000.00 pledges. Our treasurer, Zach Smith, [treasurer@stjcaoc.org](mailto:treasurer@stjcaoc.org) sent out statements to those who have made contributions to ST. John Chrysostom in 2024. Those who have not pledged - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! You can pledge online <https://stjcaoc.org/donate/>



**Thank you Greta Dilo** for decorating the church hall so beautifully for Flag Day. It was a wonderful celebration with our children processing around the church holding Albanian & American flags. Father Kai encouraged those present to sing the Albanian National Anthem.



**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.

**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.

**Father Kai takes a vacation** After not taking any time off last year Father Kai will be taking a vacation from December 26<sup>th</sup> – January 23, 2025. He will be visiting his family and friends in Georgia (the country, not the state). Hieromonk Danaks (Father Dennis Rhodes) will serve the Divine Liturgy the Sundays Father Kai is away.

**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!

**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/>

**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**