

The Weekly Messenger – February 2, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai) 484-843-4209 fr.kai@stjcaoc.org

Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: info@stjcaoc.org

This Week Epistle: Hebrews 7:7 17 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Next Week Epistle: II Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Father Kai 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.*

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday Feb 5th Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

Feb 9th Soup-er Bowl Sunday fundraiser for homeless

Feb 22nd & 23rd Bishop Nikodhim will visit our Parish.

Saturday 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls

5:00 pm Vespers followed by dinner in the church hall

Sunday 10:00 am Divine Liturgy with Bishop Nikodhim followed by coffee hour

Saturday, March 8th 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, the victims of the fires in Los Angeles, Vasilika Mihilli (1 yr.) Bessie Satir (4 yrs.), Katherine Halkedis (7 yrs.), Tranette Ledford (9 yrs.), Paula Dardaris (14 yrs.), Minella Zoto (21 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, the people in Los Angeles, Father Dennis Newly Illuminated Kevin Immanuel Begaj, Ilir Gremi, Marjana Kokuri, Marjorie, Lee Constantine Elia, Teri Douris, 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: We are looking for sponsors for 2025

Feb 2nd Hot Dog Sale

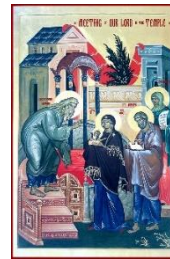
Feb 9th Soup-er Bowl Sunday Parishioners bring soup

Feb 16th NO SPONSOR

Feb 23rd Parishioners bring their special dish to share during coffee hour -Bishop Visit

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

Or go online to pick a date by clicking [COFFEEHOUR](#)



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple is celebrated on Feb. 2nd. Another name for the feast is The Meeting of our Lord. Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians call the feast, The Purification of the Holy Virgin. About 450 AD in Jerusalem, people began the custom of holding lighted candles during the Divine Liturgy of this feast day. Therefore, some churches in the West refer to this holy day as Candlemas. The Feast of the Presentation concludes the observances related to the Nativity of Christ, a period that opened on November 15 with the beginning of the Nativity fast.

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee The focus here is on the two men who went to the Temple to pray—one a pharisee who was a very decent and righteous man of religion, the other a publican who was a truly sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. The first, although genuinely righteous, boasted before God and was condemned, according to Christ. The second, although genuinely sinful, begged for mercy, received it, and was justified by God (Lk 18.9). The meditation here is that we have neither the religious piety of the pharisee nor the repentance of the publican by which alone we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, and to beg for mercy.



Bishop Nikodhim Visit Feb 22nd and 23rd: On Saturday Feb 22nd @ 10:00am Bishop Nikodhim and Father Kai will celebrate the Divine Liturgy – Saturday of Souls. At 5:00 pm Vespers, followed by a catered dinner in the church hall. Sunday, Feb 23rd @ 10:00am the Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour. For coffee hour we are asking our parishioners to bring their special food or dessert to share with all. Please plan to attend the Liturgy on Saturday at 10:00 am, Vespers and the Liturgy on Sunday; meet and talk with our Bishop



Soup-er Bowl Sunday: We will have our 10th Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday on Feb.9th following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking our parishioners to make a homemade soup. We will offer the soup at coffee hour for a small donation. The proceeds will be donated to a nearby homeless shelter.

Women's Day Celebration and Dance: March will be here before we know it. Our annual Women's Day Dance is being held on Saturday, March 8th, 2025, 5:30 – 10:30 pm in the Church Hall. A buffet dinner and continuous dancing are included! DJ Sergio will be there with good music and light show. Soda & coffee will be provided B.Y.O.B. Tickets are \$85.00 for adults and \$35.00 for children under 12

2024 Contribution Statements were mailed and emailed. If you have any questions or did not receive a statement, email Zach Smith treasurer@stjcaoc.org or call 609-685-1651

February Namedays: Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar! 2nd Meeting of our Lord (Panajoti), 3rd St Simeon the God Bearer, 5th Martyr Agatha, 10th Hieromartyr Haralambos, 18th Leo, Pope of Rome

February Giving – Paper Towels