

The Weekly Messenger – January 12, 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: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17
Next Week Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11(29th Sunday) Gospel: Luke 17-12-19

Upcoming Events:

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, Protopresbyter 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, Viktor Shyti (1 yr.), William Rubis (1 yr.), Kristo Diamanti (4 yrs.), Irene Gedremenec (4 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, Father Kai & Nikolas, 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!

Jan 12th Hieromonk Danaks and Sarah Rhodes in honor of Hieromonk Danaks Nameday

Jan 19th Bendo Family in memory of Jim 1 year

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

Feb 2nd Parishioners bring their special dish to share during coffee hour -Bishop Visit

Feb 9th Soup-er Bowl Sunday Parishioners bring soup

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

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.*

This Sunday, the Sunday following the Great Feast of Theophany, speaks to us from the gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 4 Verses 12-17, about the beginning of Jesus' work and ministry in Galilee, for it was like a great light which began to shine on all. After all Theophany is the Feast of Lights. This is the fulfillment of the prophecy when Jesus went to the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali to begin his earthly ministry to the people who lived in darkness, but saw a great light! "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand".

True repentance means a deliberate and decisive resolve to change course and to embark on a new direction. You see, brothers and sisters, repentance is God's offer to us for a fresh start. God calls us to take off the old mantle and clothe ourselves with the love and forgiveness that He freely offers to us, liberating whatever enslaves us and keeps us from his abiding love. God told us to concentrate and turn our eyes from ourselves and rather look toward God and His kingdom: "Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom is near!" The good news of this gospel is the Kingdom of God is always near...the Kingdom of God is God Himself in his personal presence, gracious power, healing forgiveness and renewing love experienced through Christ. In conclusion as we affirm our faith in Christ and practice his teachings daily in whatever we do, the new creation takes hold in us, helping us to maintain a right relationship with God, ourselves, others and everything in the world.

Bishop Nikodhim Visit Feb 1st and 2nd: Bishop Nikodhim and Father Kai will celebrate Vespers on Saturday, Feb 1st @ 5:00 pm and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Feb 2nd @ 10:00am. For coffee hour we are asking our parishioners to bring their special food or dessert to share with all. Please plan to attend Vespers and the Liturgy, 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.



Holy Water is available: If you were unable to be in church last Sunday Holy Water is still available. Many thanks to our Sunday school students for filling the bottles last week

If you sent a Christmas donation via the United States Postal Service please check you bank records to make sure the check has been cashed. We continue to have challenges with our mail delivery.

Welcome to our visitors. Father Dennis and 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

January Giving Napkins

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



