

The Weekly Messenger – January 26, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: info@stjcaoc.org
This Week Epistle: I Timothy 4:9-15 (32nd Sunday) Gospel: Luke 19:1-10
Next Week Epistle: Hebrews 7:7-17 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

WELCOME BACK FATHER KAI!

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:

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, the victims of the fires in Los Angeles, Marika Sarkos (3 yrs.), James Bendo (1 yr.), Pandora Bendo (7 yrs.), Carl Nowmos (1 yrs.), Paul Stavrou (1 yr.), 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

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
Feb 16th and 23rd NO SPONSORS

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](#)

January Giving Napkins

Sunday of Zacchaeus: At this Sunday's eucharistic Liturgy, we will hear the story of the towering figure of Zacchaeus the publican [Luke 19:1-10]. This is one of the many wonderful paradoxes of the spiritual life that characterize the Holy Scriptures. The paradox is found in the fact that the "towering" figure of Zacchaeus was actually "small of stature" [verse 3]. And if indeed he had defrauded his neighbors as he alluded to [verse 8], then he was "small" in even more essential matters. Through repentance, conversion, and right action Zacchaeus grew in stature right before the eyes of those who with faith could "see" this transformation.

Zacchaeus personifies the type of change that is possible through hearing the Good News and embracing it in thought, word and deed. This passage, unique to the Gospel according to Saint Luke, is thus perfectly placed as the first announcement of the approach of Great Lent, for in the Orthodox Church, this is always the prescribed Gospel reading for the fifth Sunday before the start of Great Lent. The four pre-Lenten Gospel readings to follow will then guide us to Monday, March 3rd, the first day of the Lenten journey that will lead us to Holy Week and then Pascha on April 20th.

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 on Sunday January 5th, Holy Water is still available.

Icon Auction: Our sincere thanks to our Icon Auction Team; Stephanie Kosta, Peter Ghicondey Sergio Georgi, Colleen Xhoxhi, Linda Croke, Anila Vero, Elisabeth Papa and young Altar Server George who walked with the Icons as they were being bid upon. Great job everyone. We received bids totaling \$18,090.00, one of our best auctions ever! We are very grateful for those who participated in the auction and bid on the Icons. God bless all of you!

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

Coffee Hour: We have many open coffee hour dates in February, March, April, May, June, July, August, Sept, October. Please take a look at the signup sheet in the side vestibule or online and sponsor a coffee hour. We encourage you to bring whatever you like to share at coffee hour. Danish, bagels, cookies, it is not necessary to bring sandwiches or a hot meal. The purpose of coffee hour is **fellowship**. The snacks/food provided by our parishioners is a bonus!

