

The Weekly Messenger – January 5, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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This Week Epistle: II Timothy 4:5-8

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Next Week Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Gezuar Vitin E Ri! Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events:

Jan 5th 2025 Memorial Telemak Dilo 30 years

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, 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, Telemak Dilo (30 yrs.), William Rubis (1 yr.), Kristo Diamanti (4 yrs.), June Mitrocsak (9 yrs.), Joseph Gjoka (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, 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 5th Begaj Family in honor of Kevin Immanuel's Baptism on Dec. 25th

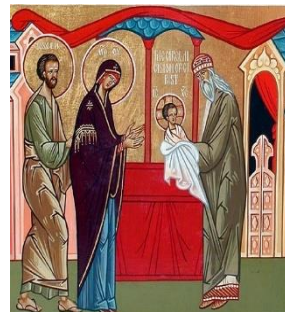
Jan 12th Hieromonk Danaks and Sarah Rhodes in honor of Hieromonk Danaks Nameday

Jan 19th Bendo Family in memory of Jim 1 year

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

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

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



Epiphany/Theophany The joy of Epiphany is in the recovery of a cosmic experience of the world, of recovering faith that everything and everyone can always be washed, purified, renewed, reborn and that regardless of how dirty and clouded with mud our life has become, no matter what swamp we might have rolled in, we always have access to a purifying stream of living water, because humanity's thirst for heaven, goodness, perfection and beauty is not dead, nor can it ever die. Indeed, this thirst alone makes us human beings. "Great are You, our Lord, and marvelous are your works, and there are not words which suffice to hymn Your wonders..." Who said Christianity is depressing and grim,

morbid and sad, and pulls human beings away from life? Look at the faces of worshippers that night and see the light and joy that shines as they listen to the psalm thundering its exultation, "The voice of the Lord is upon the waters" (Ps 29:3), as they watch the priest sprinkling volleys of blessed water throughout the church and those glittering drops fly as if throughout the whole world, making that world once again a possibility and a promise, the raw material for a mysterious miracle of transformation and transfiguration. God Himself entered this water in the form of a man; He united Himself not only with humanity, but also with all matter and made all of it a radiant, light-bearing stream flowing towards life and joy." (Fr. Alexandre Schmemmann)

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.

Per Shume Vjet Gezuar! January Namedays: 1st St. Basil, 7th St John the Baptist, 11th St Theodosius, 14th St Nina, 17th St Anthony, 18th St Athanasius, 20th St Euthymius, 23rd St Dionysius of Korca, 25th St Gregory, Jan 30th Hierarchs (Basil, Gregory, John Chrysostom)

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. The mail is not always delivered and often we have no delivery at all!

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.*

January Giving Napkins