

The Weekly Messenger – March 17, 2024
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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This Week Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Next Week Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26 Gospel: John 1:43-51

Upcoming Events:

Monday, March 11th Parish Council ZOOM meeting 7:30 pm

Sat. March 16th 2:30 pm Baptism Sophie & Paris Gorre, children of Elira & Nertil Gorre

March 17th Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday Jim Bendo 40 Day Memorial

3-year Memorial Jorgaq Lico

Semi-Annual Parish meeting during coffee hour

Monday, March 18th Great Lent Begins

March 24th Sunday of Orthodoxy/Blessing Family Icons Memorial for Carl Nowmos

Wednesday, March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm

March 24th Following the Divine Liturgy a short Vesper service for Annunciation

Monday, March 25th Annunciation Matins & Liturgy @ 6:00 pm

March 31st Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

April 7th Veneration of the Cross

April 14th St. John Climacus

April 21st St Mary of Egypt

Saturday April 27th Lazarus Saturday

April 28th Palm Sunday The Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem - Pancake Breakfast

April 30th Great & Holy Tuesday

May 1st Great & Holy Wednesday Holy Unction

May 2nd Great & Holy Thursday 12 Gospels

May 3rd Great & Holy Friday

May 4th Great & Holy Saturday

May 5th Holy Pascha

May 12th St Thomas

2-year Memorial Steven Cosmo

May 19th Myrrh-bearing Women

1-year Memorial Robert Dardaris

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Protospesbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, James Bendo, Jorgaq Lico (3 yrs.), Carl Nowmos, Robert Steffon, Leri Chochua, Paul Stavrou, Diane Mallios (3 yrs.), Charles Burdumy (3 yrs.), Bettye Ledford (8 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

Commemorations for the Living: His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim, Father Joseph Ciarciaglino, the people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, Reader David Brook, Reader Chris Manosis, Vladimir Melnik, Susan Melnik, Virginia Rubus, Teri Douris, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, Eugene, 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*

Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise /

Forgiveness Sunday as we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Great Lent begins Monday, March 18th, Father Kai will serve **Pre-sanctified Liturgy Wednesday night beginning March 20th. @ 6:00pm.** We plan to have Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and fellowship in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy. ***Father Kai will serve Presanctified liturgy every Wednesday, March 20th, March 27, April 3rd, April 10th, April 17th, April 24th beginning at 6:00 pm.*** It is a beautiful service and we ask you and your families attend.

Your 2024 Pledge: We are encouraging our parishioners to pledge online via our website: <https://stjcaoc.org/pledge/> We gladly accept credit card donations online as well as payments made automatically from your checking account. We also have pledge cards available at the candle stand and in the church hall if you prefer to submit a physical card rather than go online. Our goal for 2024 is \$60,000.00. Please help us meet our goal.

Coffee Hour Sponsor: sign-up on the sheet or click this link [CoffeeHourSignup](#)

March 17th Bendo Family in memory of Jim

March 24th Marion Merkle in memory of Carl Nowmos

April 7th NO Sponsor

April 21st NO Sponsor

March 31st NO Sponsor

April 14th NO Sponsor

April 28th Pancake Breakfast

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.

Monthly Giving for March: paper napkins.

If you have news for the Weekly Messenger, please send it to info@stjcaoc.org

