

**The Weekly Messenger – March 3, 2024**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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**This Week Epistle: I Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32**

**Next Week Epistle: I Corinthians 8:8-13;9:1-2 Matthew 6:14-21**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> Vespers 5:00 pm**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Prodigal Son Dorka “Dorothy” Tomassini 2-year Memorial**

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> Saturday of Souls Liturgy 10:00 am No vespers March 9th**

Women’s Day Dance 5:00 pm – 10:30 pm for info & tix Contact Nilda 610-618-6122 or visit the church website <https://stjcaoc.org>

**March 10<sup>th</sup> Meatfare/Last Judgement Memorials Andrea Kasapi & Viktori Xhoxhi**

**Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> Parish Council ZOOM meeting 7:30 pm**

**Sat. March 16<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm Baptism Sophie & Paris Gorre, children of Elira & Nertil Gorre**

**March 17<sup>th</sup> Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday Jim Bendo 40 Day Memorial**

Memorial Jorgaq Lico 3 year memorial

Semi-Annual Parish meeting during coffee hour

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> Great Lent Begins**

**March 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Orthodoxy**

Memorial for Carl Nowmos

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, Viktor Shyti, Robert Steffon, Leri Chochua, James Bendo, Paul Stavrou, Carl Nowmos, William Rubis, Rudina Dodbiba, William Messner (Bill Bortner’s uncle), 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, Paulette Steffa, 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](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

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

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> Spiro & Coraluzzi Families in memory of Miss Dorothy**

**March 10<sup>th</sup> Vilma Kasapi in memory of Andrea Kasapi and Viktori Xhoxhi**

**March 17<sup>th</sup> Bendo Family in memory of Jim**

**March 24<sup>th</sup> Marion Merkle in memory of Carol Nowmos March 31<sup>st</sup> NO SPONSOR**

**Monthly Giving for March:** paper napkins.



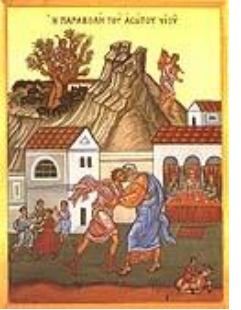
**Women’s Day Celebration and Dance: Saturday, March 9th, 2024,**

**5:00 – 10:30 pm** in the Church Hall. A buffet dinner and continuous dancing are included! All invited to attend.

DJ Sergio will be playing your favorite songs and has set up an extraordinary light show in the church hall. Soda & coffee will be provided B.Y.O.B. Tickets are \$85.00 for adults and \$35.00 for children under 12 [TICKETS](#)

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son.** And He said, ‘There was a man who had two sons....’” This is how Christ begins what is perhaps the greatest of his parables, the one we know as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but which could easily be titled the “Parable of the Two Sons” or the “Parable of the Compassionate Father.” With this parable, which we will hear at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 28, we are invited to enter the “school of repentance”—Great Lent—and sit at the feet of the Master, so that we can hear the words of eternal life and “keep them.”

After receiving his portion of the inheritance, even before his father had died, the younger of the two sons “gathered all that he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living” [Luke 15:13]. This one sober understatement does not demand a great deal of imagination to yield its meaning. We know that *loose living* refers to a web of wrong choices, bad company, unrestrained satisfaction of “the passions,” and forgetfulness of God. This spiritually suicidal combination leads to bankruptcy on a further series of interrelated levels: the material, moral/ethical and spiritual. In no time, the prodigal son is forced to feed “on the pods that the swine ate” [Luke 15:16].



**Congratulations to David Brook, Vlad Melnik and Susan Melnik.**

Bishop Nikodhim tonsured David as a Reader. A Reader/ Psalti, is a clerical order to which a man is tonsured and ordained, setting him apart as blessed by the bishop to read in services and in the Divine Liturgy.

Bishop Nikodhim presented Susan and Vlad with the *Herald of St. Constantine & Helena* which shall be conferred upon a

select Layman who has distinguished himself or herself with extraordinary service in the local parish. AXIOS!!! Many Years!



**March Namedays Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar!** To our parishioners who celebrate their Nameday in March: 10<sup>th</sup> St. Theodore the General, 17<sup>th</sup> St. Alexander, 25<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation

**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.

*If you have news for the Weekly Messenger, please send it to [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*