

**The Weekly Messenger – February 23, 2025**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

**Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai) 484-843-4209 [fr.kai@stjcaoc.org](mailto:fr.kai@stjcaoc.org)**

Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)

**This Week Epistle: I Corinthians 8:1-13; 9:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

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

**Upcoming Events:**

**Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Bishop Nikodhim will visit our Parish.**

**Saturday 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls**

**5:00 pm Vespers followed by dinner in the church hall**

**Sunday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> Meatfare 10:00 am Divine Liturgy with Bishop Nikodhim**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday**

**Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Lent Begins**

**Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting via ZOOM 7:00**

**Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm**

**Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> Women's Day Dance**

**March 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Orthodoxy/Blessing Family Icons**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> St. Gregory Palamas**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> Veneration of the Cross [Semi-annual meeting during coffee hour](#)**

**Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> Annunciation Matins & Liturgy @ 6:00 pm**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> St. John Climacus**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> St Mary of Egypt Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> Lazarus Saturday**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday The Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem - Pancake Breakfast**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Wednesday Holy Unction**

**April 17<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Thursday 12 Gospels April 18<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Friday**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> Holy Pascha**

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania, 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, Barbara Barry, 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, Hieromonk Danaks (Father Dennis), 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](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

**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)*

***WELCOME BISHOP NIKODHIM, Bishop of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese.***

**Last Judgement/Meatfare Sunday** is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25.31–46). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.

*... for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and in prison and you visited Me. For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me (Mt 25).*

We are saved not merely by prayer and fasting, not by “religious exercises” alone. We are saved by serving Christ through his people, the goal toward which all piety and prayer is ultimately directed.

**Great Lent** begins Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Father Kai will serve **Pre-sanctified Liturgy Wednesday night beginning March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 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 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9.* It is a beautiful service and we ask you and your families attend.



**Soup-er Bowl Sunday** We had a small but enthusiastic crowd on Soup-er Bowl Sunday and raised over \$400.00 for Broad Street Ministries. Thank you, Linda Croke for coordinating this event and bringing soup. Thank you to Elisabeth Papa, Luiza Salavachi, Marjana Kashari, Janice Leyden, Imkje Tarazi, Marion Merkle, Christine Dardaris, John Vliet, Donna Dimitri for bringing soup and thank you to all who bought soup! It was a very nice day and prelude for the EAGLES Victory!

**Coffee Hour: We are looking for sponsors for March 2025 Please pick a date!**

**Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> Parishioners bring their special dish to share during coffee hour -Bishop Visit**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> NO Sponsor March 9<sup>th</sup> NO Sponsor March 16<sup>th</sup> NO Sponsor**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> NO Sponsor March 30<sup>th</sup> NO Sponsor April 6<sup>th</sup> NO Sponsor**

**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](#)**

**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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6:00 – 11:00 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 \$40.00 for children under 12

**February Giving – Paper Towels**

