

**The Weekly Messenger – February 9, 2025**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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**This Week Epistle: II Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14**  
**Next Week Epistle: I Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Publican and the Pharisee** Soup-er Bowl Sunday fundraiser for homeless

**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**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> St Thomas** **May 4<sup>th</sup> Myrrh-bearing Women**

**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, the victims of the fires in Los Angeles, the victims of the plane crashes in Washington DC and Philadelphia, Andigoni Steffa (8 yrs), Nancy Gregory 10 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, the people in Los Angeles, 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)*

**Coffee Hour: We are looking for sponsors for 2025**

**Feb 9<sup>th</sup>** Soup-er Bowl Sunday Parishioners bring soup

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup>** Elvira & Erion Gusho in memory of Vasilika Mihilli (Elvira's Mother)

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

**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](#)**

**Memorials:** Father Kai would like those having a Memorial for their family member to write a couple of paragraphs about the departed person so that it can be read prior to the Memorial. We also encourage you to bring a photo of your loved one. We want to share this information with our sisters and brothers so they know for whom we are serving the Memorial and praying for.

**Bishop Nikodhim Visit Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>: On Saturday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:00am** Bishop Nikodhim and Father Kai will celebrate the Divine Liturgy – Saturday of Souls. **If you have previously sent us the names of your loved ones for the departed list there is no need to send them again. If you have not sent the names of the departed please email the list to [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org) and we will include them in the prayers.** At 5:00 pm Vespers, followed by a catered dinner in the church hall. Sunday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:00am the Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour. For coffee hour we are asking our parishioners to bring their special food or dessert to share with all. Please plan to attend the Liturgy on Saturday at 10:00 am, Vespers and the Liturgy on Sunday; meet and talk with our Bishop

**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

**Your 2025 Pledge:** We are encouraging our parishioners to pledge online via our website: <https://stjcaoc.org/pledge/> or make a donation <https://stjcaoc.org/donate/> We gladly accept credit card donations online as well as payments made automatically from your checking account. If you do send a check, please be sure to look at your bank account to make sure the check has cleared. We have ongoing problems with mail deliver at church. Thank you to those who made a pledge in 2024.

**New Windows with Icons in the Church:** We are happy to report we have received sponsors for 8 windows in the church. The sponsors have contributed \$6,000.00 toward to cost of the window and Icon. Each sponsor will have a plaque placed in the window to recognize their contribution. There are two (2) windows without sponsors. The Icons in the available windows are Annunciation and Holy Pentecost. Windows can be shared by multiple families or family members. Please <mailto:info@stjcaoc.org> if you would like to sponsor a window or see Donna Dimitri.

**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.

**February Giving – Paper Towels**