

The Weekly Messenger – February 16, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: I Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32
Next Week Epistle: I Corinthians 8:1-13; 9:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Upcoming Events:

Feb 22nd & 23rd 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 23rd Meatfare 10:00 am Divine Liturgy with Bishop Nikodhim

March 2nd Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday

Monday, March 3rd Great Lent Begins

Wednesday, March 5th Parish Council meeting via ZOOM 7:00

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

Saturday, March 8th Women's Day Dance

March 9th Sunday of Orthodoxy/Blessing Family Icons

March 16th St. Gregory Palamas

March 23rd Veneration of the Cross *Semi-annual meeting during coffee hour*

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

March 30th St. John Climacus

April 6th St Mary of Egypt **Saturday April 12th Lazarus Saturday**

April 13th Palm Sunday The Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem - Pancake Breakfast

April 15th Great & Holy Tuesday **April 16th Great & Holy Wednesday Holy Unction**

April 17th Great & Holy Thursday 12 Gospels **April 18th Great & Holy Friday**

April 19th Great & Holy Saturday **April 20th Holy Pascha**

April 27th St Thomas **May 4th 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), George Notskas (36 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*

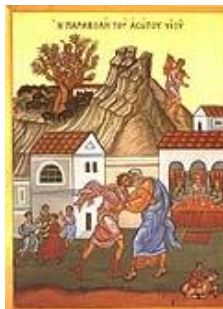
Coffee Hour: We are looking for sponsors for March 2025 Please pick a date!

Feb 16th Elvira & Erion Gusho in memory of Vasilika Mihilli (Elvira's Mother)

Feb 23rd 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](#)



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].

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 8th, 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

New Windows with Icons in the Church: We are happy to report we have received sponsors for 9 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 is one (1) window without a sponsor.** The last Icon/window available is Holy Pentecost. The window 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

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