

**The Weekly Messenger – March 2, 2025**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> 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 12:1-10 (40 Martyrs) Gospel: John 1:43-51**

**Upcoming Events:**

**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, Paula Kosta (8 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, Hieromonk Danaks (Father Dennis), Nancy, 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 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>** Parish Council **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](#)**

**March Giving – Bottle Water**

**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 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.

**Last weekend Bishop Nikodhim,** Bishop of Boston and the Albanian



Archdiocese visited our parish. What a wonderful weekend. It was a wonderful opportunity for our parishioners to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with the Bishop, to meet and speak with him. Thank you to all who attended the liturgies and vespers and to all who brought food to share during coffee hour.

It was a very special weekend for our parish!

**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

**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)*

