

The Weekly Messenger – March 16, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai) 484-843-4209 fr.kai@stjcaoc.org

Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: info@stjcaoc.org

This Week Epistle: Hebrews 10:10-14; 2:1-3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Next Week Hebrews 4:4-16, 5:1-6 Epistle: Gospel: 8:34-38; 9:1

Upcoming Events:

March 16th St. Gregory Palamas

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

Monday, March 24th Matins & Liturgy @ 6:00 pm

Tuesday, March 25th Annunciation

March 30th St. John Climacus

April 6th St Mary of Egypt

Saturday April 12th Lazarus Saturday 10:00 am Divine Liturgy & Sunday school retreat

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, April 16th Great & Holy Wednesday Holy Unction 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 17th Great & Holy Thursday 12 Gospels 6:30 pm

Friday, April 18th Great & Holy Friday **10:00 am** decorate Epitaphios, **5:00pm** Taking down from the Cross **7:00 pm** Lamentations

Saturday, April 19th Great & Holy Saturday **11:00 am** 1st Resurrection Liturgy **11:30 pm**

Nocturnes, Matins Paschal Liturgy

April 20th Agape Vespers 1:00 pm

April 27th St Thomas Sunday

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, Barbara Barry, Charles Burdumy (4 yrs.), Bettye Ledford (9 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), Ellen Mondlak, Michele Holl, 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*

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.



The Second Sunday of Great Fast is the commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God's divine glory.

LAZARUS SATURDAY RETREAT for children and adults April 12th the Divine Liturgy will begin @ 10:00. Father Kai will conduct the Liturgy on the Solea and explain what he is doing during the Liturgy. It is most informative. If you and your children would like to participate in the Lazarus Saturday retreat please email info@stjcaoc.org We will make Meshe, do some crafting and have pizza for lunch. All Welcome!

Presanctified Liturgy EVERY Wednesday night @ 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 19, 26 April 2, 9.*** It is a beautiful service and we ask you and your families attend. We had 8 people attend our first Presanctified Liturgy on March 3, 2025.

Semi Annual Parish Meeting: March 23, 2025 during coffee hour. Parish business to be discussed: Upcoming OCA All American Council in Phoenix AZ July 14-18, Building update, Church Finances, Social Activities, selection of delegates for Archdiocesan Assembly September 25-27, 2025 at St. Thomas, Farmington Hill, MI.

We had a very successful Women's Day Dance attended by over 100 people. Everyone had a wonderful time, dancing, eating and creating memories with their family and friends. Thank you, Nilda Salavachi and Anila Vero for organizing this event, Greta Dilo and Tati for the beautiful decorations and DJ Sergio for spinning Albanian Music and a wonderful light show. The Women's Day Dance raised over \$7000.00 for our Parish. Special thanks to the kitchen crew: Colleen Xhoxhi, Linda Croke, Marion Merkle, Michele Sarkos, Traci & Kristin Cosmo and Donna Dimitri. Also, a big THANK YOU to those attended the event and those who helped clean up after. Well Done!

Coffee Hour: 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 16th Barbara Blum

March 23rd Martin Qyra & Jovana Vasili

March 30th Bendo & Fiss Families

April 6th Coraluzzi/Spiro Families in Memory of Dorothy Tomassini

April 13th Pancake Breakfast

April 20th Pascha – No Coffee Hour

Red Egg Dye is available at the candle stand. It is \$4.00 per pack.

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

March Giving – Bottle Water