

The Weekly Messenger – May 18, 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: Acts 11:19-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Next Week Epistle: II Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: John 9:1-38

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
KRISHTI U NGJALL! VERTET U NGJALL!

Upcoming Events:

May 18th Sunday of the Samaritan Woman & 40-day Memorial +Thimi Pappas

May 25th Sunday of the Blind Man 1 year memorial +Lefteri Lico

Monday, May 26th Father Kai will bless the graves at Fernwood 10 am, Lawnview 12:30 pm

Wednesday, May 28th 6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy – Ascension

Thursday, May 29th Ascension

June 1st Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Sat. June 7th Baptism of Alexandra Papuciu, daughter of Anisa & Ervin Papuciu 10:00 m

June 8th Holy Pentecost and Sunday school graduation **June 15th** All Saints

June 22nd Sunday of Matthew **June 29th** Ss. Peter & Paul Nameday

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania, Archbishop Nikon, Protosphyriar Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, Pope Francis, the victims of the war in the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Thimi Pappas, Lefteri Lico (1 yr.), Paul Geori (3 yrs.), Taso Gjidede (6 yrs.), Nina Melito (6 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, Pope Leo XIV, the people affected by the war in the Middle East, the people in Ukraine, Newborn Reggie Clair Plesati, Sergio & Caleigh Plesati, Newborn Theodore Andreas Kasapi, Denis & Elise Kasapi, Betty Subashi, Ellen Mondlak, Nancy, 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: The 2025 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Sponsors needed for June 1 and 15, ALL OF JULY most of August and September. [COFFEEHOUR](#)

May 18th Pappas Family in memory of +Thimi

May 25th Papa/Lico/Gore Families in memory of +Lefteri Lico

June 1st NO SPONSOR

June 8th Linda Kosta in honor of Olivia's graduation

June 15th NO SPONSOR

June 22nd Diane Lescas in Memory of +Ted

June 29th Peter Steffa in honor of his Nameday

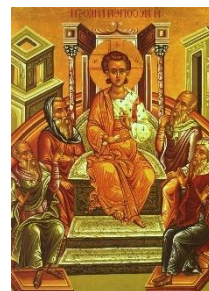
July 6th NO SPONSOR

July 13th NO SPONSOR

July 20th NO SPONSOR

July 27th NO SPONSOR

Aug 3rd NO SPONSOR



The Feast of Mid-Pentecost In the middle of this fourth week, the middle day between Easter and Pentecost is solemnly celebrated. It is called the feast of Mid-Pentecost, at which Christ, “in the middle of the feast” teaches men of his saving mission and offers to all “the waters of immortality” (Jn 7.14). Again, we are reminded of the Master’s presence and his saving promise: “If anyone is thirsty let him come to Me and drink” (Jn 7.37). We think also once again of our death and resurrection with Christ in our baptism, and our reception of the Holy Spirit from him in our chrismation. We “look back to one, and anticipate the other” as one of the hymns of the feast puts it. We know that we belong to that kingdom of the Risen Christ where “the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price” (Rev 22.17; Is 55.1).

The fifth Sunday after Easter deals with the woman of Samaria with whom Christ spoke at Jacob’s Well (Jn 4). Again, the theme is the “living water” and the recognition of Jesus as God’s Messiah (Jn 4.10–11; 25–26). We are reminded of our new life in Him, of our own drinking of the “living water,” of our own true worship of God in the Christian messianic age “in Spirit and in Truth” (Jn 4.23–24). We see as well that salvation is offered to all: Jews and Gentiles, men and women, saints and sinners.



Thank you to all who made a Pascha Donation We have attached a list of those from whom we received a Pascha donation. If you sent a donation please check the list to make sure we received your donation. Last week we received an envelope in the mail from an address on Arch Street. The envelope contained 4 envelopes with Pascha donations. Apparently, the envelopes were delivered to the address on Arch Street and the people there were kind enough to put them in an envelope and send them to 237n N. 17th Street. Our difficulties with the USPS continue! If you have any questions about your Pascha Donation please contact our treasurer, Zach Smith treasurer@stjcaoc.org

Who’s Graduating????? We would love to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. Send an email to <mailto:info@stjcaoc.org>

Nick Naum Scholarship Applications: degree The application is posted on our website <https://stjcaoc.org/nick-naum-scholarship/> The applications must be submitted by Sunday, June 8th 2025 via email to chairperson@stjcaoc.org Recipients will be notified by June 22, 2025. The recipients will be presented with their award on Sunday, July 13, 2025.

Memorial Day Grave Blessing at Fernwood Cemetery: Father Kai will be at Fernwood Cemetery on Monday, May 26, 2025 @ 10:00 am, Father Kai will also go to Lawnview Cemetery in Rockledge PA. He will arrive at Lawnview around 12:30 pm. Please email fr.kai@stjcaoc.org or call Father Kai 484-843-4209 if you would like him to bless a grave at another cemetery.

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.

May Giving – Tissues