

# The Weekly Messenger – May 25, 2025

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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This Week Epistle: II Corinthians 4:6-15 Gospel: John 9:1-38

Next Week Epistle: Acts 20:16-18; 28-36 Gospel: John 17:1-13

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

## Upcoming Events:

May 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Blind Man 1 year memorial +Lefteri Lico

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

Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Vespel Liturgy – Ascension

Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> Ascension

June 1<sup>st</sup> Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Sat. June 7<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Alexandra Papuci, daughter of Anisa & Ervin Papuci 10:00 m

June 8<sup>th</sup> Holy Pentecost and Sunday school graduation

Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM June 15<sup>th</sup> All Saints

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Matthew June 29<sup>th</sup> Ss. Peter & Paul Nameday

**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, Pope Francis, the victims of the war in the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Lefteri Lico (1 yr.), Christina Murianka, Virginia Daka, Kathrine Detskas (15 yrs), Those who sacrificed their lives in WWII Theodore Ghicandy age 17, Joseph Kondili age 19, Mina Vanghel age 19, George Joseph 22, John Pappas age 23, Apostal Kosta age 23, 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, 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: 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 25<sup>th</sup> Papa/Lico/Gore Families in memory of +Lefteri Lico

June 1<sup>st</sup> NO SPONSOR

June 8<sup>th</sup> Linda Kosta in honor of Olivia's graduation

June 15<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Diane Lescas in Memory of +Ted

June 29<sup>th</sup> Peter Steffa in honor of his Nameday

July 13<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR

July 6<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR

July 27<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR

July 20<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> NO SPONSOR



**The Blind Man** The sixth Sunday commemorates the healing of the man blind from birth (Jn 9). We are identified with that man who came to see and to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. The Lord has anointed our eyes with his own divine hands and washed them with the waters of our baptism (Jn 9.6–11).

Jesus used clay of spittle and told the man to wash in the waters of Siloam. He did so because it was the Sabbath day on which spitting, clay-making and washing were strictly forbidden. By breaking these ritual laws of the Jews, Jesus showed that He is indeed the Lord of the Sabbath, and, as such, that He is equal to God the Father Who alone, according to Jewish tradition, works on the Sabbath day in running His world.

There is scandal over the healing of the blind man on the Sabbath day. He is separated from the synagogue because of his faith in Christ. The entire Church follows this man in his fate, knowing that it is those who do not see Jesus as the Lord who are really blind and still in their sins (Jn 9.41). The others have the light of life and can see and know the Son of God, for “you have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you” (Jn 9.37).

**Ascension May 29<sup>th</sup>** Jesus did not live with His disciples after His resurrection as He had before His death. Filled with the glory of His divinity, He appeared at different times and places to His people, assuring them that it was He, truly alive in His risen and glorified body.

On the fortieth day after His passover, Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified on the right hand of God (Acts 1.9–11; Mk 16.19; Lk 24.51). The ascension of Christ is His final physical departure from this world after the resurrection. It is the formal completion of His mission in this world as the Messianic Saviour. It is His glorious return to the Father Who had sent Him into the world to accomplish the work that He had given him to do (Jn 17.4–5).

The Church's celebration of the ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. Indeed, the ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The holy scripture stresses Christ's physical departure and His glorification with God the Father, together with the great joy which His disciples had as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit Who was to come to assure the Lord's presence with them, enabling them to be His witnesses to the ends of earth (Lk 24.48–53; Acts 1.8–11; Mt 28.20; Mk 16.16–14).

In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all men that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to “prepare a place” for and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the “heavenly sanctuary... the Holy Place not made by hands” (see Hebrews 8–10). He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, making Him powerfully present in the lives of disciples.

**Who's Graduating?????** We would love to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. Send an email to [mailto:info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)



**May Giving – Tissues**