

**The Weekly Messenger – May 4, 2025**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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**This Week Epistle: Acts 6:1-7**

**Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8**

*Next Week Epistle: Acts 9:32-42*

*Gospel: John 5:1-15*

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

**Upcoming Events:**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** Myrrh-bearing Women 3- year Memorial +Steve Cosmo

**Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of the Paralytic 5 -year Memorial +Peter Melnik

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

40-day Memorial +Thimi Pappas & 1 year memorial +Lefteri Lico

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of the Blind Man **June 1<sup>st</sup>** Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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

**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, Thimi Pappas, Steven Cosmo (3 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, Newborn Theodore Andreas Kasapi, Denis & Elise Kasapi, Betty Subashi, Ellen Mondlak, Michele Holl, 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](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

**Coffee Hour: The 2025 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Sponsors needed for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 15, 22, ALL OF JULY most of August and September. [COFFEEHOUR](#)**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of +Steven Cosmo

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** Melnik Family in memory of +Peter Melnik

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** Pappas Family in memory of +Thimi

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** Koco & Mimoza Priftanji

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

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

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

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>** NO SPONSOR

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

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

**Per Shume Vjet, Gezuar!** To our parishioners who celebrate Namedays in May: 5th Great Martyr Irene, 9th Martyr Christopher, May 12th St. Thomas the Apostle, May 21st Ss Constantine & Helen, May 30th Isaacius of Dalmatus.

**Sunday of The Myrrh bearing Women:** The third Sunday after Pascha is dedicated to the myrrh bearing women who cared for the body of the Savior at his death and who were the first witnesses of His Resurrection. About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulcher, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Choose, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence (Matt 27:55-56; 28:1-10. Mark 15:40-41. Luke 8:1-3; 23:55-24:11, 22-24. John 19:25; 20:11-18. Acts 1:14).

Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Savior, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Savior's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counsellors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matt. 27:60).

**Who's Graduating?????** Please send information about the graduates in your family, College, High School, 8th Grade, pre-school, etc. We would love to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. Send an email to <mailto:info@stjcaoc.org> Include the name of the graduate and the school from which they graduated. For 8th grade let us know what high school they will be attending next year, HS grads if they are attending college, the name of the college, or career path. College graduates, their degree and plans for the future. We would also like the proud parents and grandparents' names. Let's give them some recognition. Thank-you!

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



**May Giving – Tissues**