

The Weekly Messenger – June 15, 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 11:33-40; 12:1-2 Gospel: *Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30*
Next Week Epistle: Romans 2:10-16 Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Upcoming Events:

June 15th All Saints

June 22nd Sunday of Matthew

June 29th Ss. Peter & Paul Nameday

July 14-18 OCA All American Council Phoenix Arizona <https://www.oca.org/aac>

July 20th Presentation of the Nick Naum Scholarships

Wed., Aug 6th Transfiguration **Vespertal Liturgy TUESDAY Aug 5th @ 6:00 pm**

Friday, Aug 15th Dormition of the Theotokos **Vespertal Liturgy THURSDAY Aug 14th @ 6:00 pm**

Monday, Sept 8th Nativity of the Theotokos

Sept 14th Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sept 26-27 Albanian Archdiocese Assembly, Farmington Hills, MI

Commemorations for the Departed: 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, Our Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers, Christina Murianka, Virginia Daka, Eileen, Rosemary Notskas (9 yrs.), Hugh Ledford (9 yrs.), Spiro Dimitri (33 yrs.), Dacon 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, Our Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers, Newborn William Peter McCloskey, Brittany & Sean McCloskey, Newborn Reggie Clair Plesati, Sergio & Caleigh Plesati, Cheri, Chris, Betty Subashi, Ellen Mondlak, Nancy, Lee Constantine Elia, Teri Douris, 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*

Coffee Hour: The 2025 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule.

Sponsors needed for July 6th most of August and ALL of September & December

June 15th Gentian Dano & Family

June 22nd Diane Lescas in Memory of +Ted

June 29th Peter Steffa in honor of his Father, + Dr. Peter L. Steffa's Nameday & birthday

July 6th NO SPONSOR

July 13th Sarkos Family

July 20th Entela Ndrecka & Family

July 27th Fiori & Ilirjan Papa

Aug 3rd Brahollari Family

August 10th Melnik Family in honor of John's 17th birthday

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.

June Giving – Bottle Water any size

Synaxis of All Saints the Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.



Father's Day is a time for people to celebrate the men in their lives. For children, it is a day to show appreciation for their fathers and father-figures. For adults, it is a day to show much they love and appreciate the hard work of the fathers and husbands in their lives.

Congratulations to Peter & Nancy who became grandparents for the second time! William Peter McCloskey was born on was born on June 4, 2025 at 8:40 am. He is the son of Brittany & Sean McCloskey and little brother of Maggie. Willie Pete is the nephew of Christina Ghicondey and the Great-grandson of Roxane and +Jim Ghicondey. Congratulations and Many Years to Ghicondey-McCloskey family.



77th Annual AANO Convention August 9-10, 2025 Join us as we come together to honor our shared traditions, forge new connections, and celebrate Albanian culture. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, celebrate, and create lasting memories with fellow Albanians from near and far. See you there! Westin Hotel in Jersey City, NJ <https://www.aano.org/77-annual-convention-1-1-1> or contact Nilda Salavachi

New Mini Split in the Altar we are happy to report Ilir Gremi has installed a mini-split air conditioner in the Altar. Now Father Kai will be cool in the summers as he celebrates the Divine Liturgy and other services. Ilir was assisted by his nephew Kevin Bagaj. Thank you Ilir & Kevin!

Painting update the front doors of the church and the side vestibule door are in the process of being painted - the same color as the church sign. The project will be completed this weekend. We will begin soliciting proposals to paint the interior of the church. If you know a good painter please let Father Kai or Donna Dimitri know their info so we can obtain a proposal.

Please remember to make your 2025 pledge and if you bid on Icons to send in the amount you bid. If you have any questions please contact our treasurer, Zach Smith mailto:treasurer@stjcaoc.org

Happy Father Day to our Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers and father figures!