

## The Weekly Messenger – June 8, 2025

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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This Week Epistle: Acts 2:1-11 Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Next Week Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

### Upcoming Events:

Sat. June 7<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Alexandra Papuci, daughter of Anisa & Ervin Papuci 10:00 am  
11:00 am Divine Liturgy – Saturday of Souls

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

Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm June 15<sup>th</sup> All Saints

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Matthew

June 29<sup>th</sup> Ss. Peter & Paul Nameday

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

**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, Christina Murianka, Virginia Daka, Eileen, Helen Bilanin (1 yr.), Michael Theokary (7 yrs.), Dorothy Dardaris (22 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, Newborn Reggie Clair Plesati, Sergio & Caleigh Plesati, Our Sunday School Teachers and Students, 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](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

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

**Sponsors needed for ALL OF JULY most of August and September**

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

June 15<sup>th</sup> Gentian Dano & Family

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

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

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

August 10<sup>th</sup> Melnik Family in honor of John's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday

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

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

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

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> Brahollari 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

**June Giving – Bottle Water any size**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 @ 11:00 am - Saturday of Souls (or Soul Saturday)** is a day set aside for the commemoration of the dead within the liturgical year of the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Saturday is a traditional day of prayer for the dead, because Christ lay dead in the Tomb on Saturday. These days are devoted to prayer for departed relatives and others among the faithful who would not be commemorated specifically as saints. The Divine Services on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is often a Panikhida (Memorial Service) either after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning or after Vespers on Friday evening, for which Grure (a dish made of boiled wheatberries or rice and honey) is prepared and placed on the Panikhida table. After the Service, the priest blesses the Koliva. It is then eaten as a memorial by all present. Thank you to Vlad Melnik for volunteering to make the Grure.

**Pentecost: The Descent of the Holy Spirit:** In the Old Testament Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the ten commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the new covenant of the Messiah, the Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ.

On Pentecost we have the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God mystically present in this world in the Church of the Messiah. For this reason, the fiftieth day stands as the beginning of the era which is beyond the limitations of this world, fifty being that number which stands for eternal and heavenly fulfillment in Jewish and Christian mystical piety: seven times seven, plus one.

Once again it must be noted that the feast of Pentecost is not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago. It is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church today. We all have died and risen with the Messiah-King, and we all have received his Most Holy Spirit. We are the "temples of the Holy Spirit." God's Spirit dwells in us (Rom 8: 1 Cor 2-3, 12; 2 Cor 3; Gal 5; Eph 2-3). We, by our own membership in the Church, have received "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of chrismation. Pentecost has happened to us.

**OCA ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL July 14-18, 2025 in Phoenix AZ.** As described in the Statute of Orthodox Church in America, "The All-American Council is the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church. The Council brings together the various elements of the Church to bear witness to her identity, unity, and mission."

All-American Councils are vital to life of our autocephalous Church not only because of their authority, but also because they effectively express the conciliar nature of the Orthodox Church providing an opportunity for the entire Church to gather together in communion, prayer, and faith. <https://www.oca.org/aac>

