

The Weekly Messenger – August 3, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: I Corinthians 1:10-17 Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Next Week Epistle: I Corinthians 3:9-17 (9th after Pentecost) Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Upcoming Events:

TUESDAY Aug 5th @ 6:00 pm - Vesperal Liturgy Transfiguration

Wed., Aug 6th Transfiguration

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

Aug 17th 40- day Memorial +Lee Elia

Aug 24th 3-year Memorial +William Spiro

Saturday, Sept 6th Wedding – Michelle Dardaris & Joseph Bassett III 2:00 pm

Monday, Sept 8th Nativity of the Theotokos

Sept 14th Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

Oct 19th Wedding - Jovana Vasili & Martin Qyra 2:00 pm

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims of the war in Gaza and the rest of the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Kim Burdumy, Ellen Mondlak, Lee Constantine Elia, William Spiro (3 yrs.), George Robos (4 yrs.), Marc Johnson (4 yrs.), Maria Papinghi (12 yrs.), Qiriako Charlie Adams (14 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, Archpriest Emmanuel Pratsinkakis on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood, the people affected by the war in the Gaza and the rest of the Middle East, the people in Ukraine, Newly Illuminated Jovana Vasili, Newly Illuminated Martin Qyra, Klaidi Kosta, Ilirian Disha, Richard Cotto, Roxane Ghicondey, Betty Subashi, Gerald Mondlak, Nancy, 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.

<https://stjcaoc.org/event-calendar/>

Aug 3rd Brahollari Family August 10th Melnik Family in honor of John's 17th birthday

Aug 17th Diane Lescas & Tana Elia in memory of +Lee Elia

Aug 24th Coraluzzi/Spiro Families in Memory of +Bill August 31st Paula Bendo

Your Parish Needs Your Help: Consider helping with the Sunday School as a teacher or and aid. We have so many children in our Parish and they should have the opportunity to learn about their faith in Sunday school. **Please contact our Sunday School Director, Ilirjan Papa.** We would like to have more parishioners participate with our Parish Council. **Contact Father Kai.**

8th Sunday of Matthew The Miracle of the Five Loaves and Two Fishes:

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds



Father Kai will celebrate the Feast of Transfiguration with a Vesperal Liturgy on Tuesday, August 5th @ 6⁰⁰ pm

The Transfiguration of Christ (August 6th,) is one of the central events recorded in the gospels. Immediately after the Lord was recognized by His apostles as “the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the Living God,” He told them that “He must go up to Jerusalem and suffer many things.. and be killed and on the third day be raised” (Mt 16). The announcement of Christ’s approaching passion and death was met with indignation by the disciples. And then, after rebuking them, the Lord took Peter, James, and John “up to a high mountain”—by tradition Mount Tabor—and was “transfigured before them.”

In the Transfiguration, the apostles see the glory of the Kingdom of God present in majesty in the person of Christ they see that “in Him, indeed, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,” that “in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (Col 1.19, 2.9). They see this before the crucifixion so that in the resurrection they might know Who it is Who has suffered for them, and what it is that this one, Who is God, has prepared for those who love Him. This is what the Church celebrates in the feast of the Transfiguration.

The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on the Feast of Transfiguration is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God’s unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord. As it is a past custom, Father Kai will bless grapes and other fruits brought in by our parishioners - following the Vesperal Liturgy.

Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar! To our parishioners and friends who celebrate their Nameday in August: 6th Holy Transfiguration (Sotir), August 15th Dormition of the Theotokos (Mary, Maria, Marie)

Welcome to our visitors. Father Kai and 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.

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>

Monthly Giving for August: Napkins