

The Weekly Messenger – July 20, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: James 5:10-20 Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Next Week Epistle: II Timothy 2:1-20 Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Upcoming Events:

July 20th Presentation of the Nick Naum Scholarships

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

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

Aug 17th 40 day Memorial +Lee Elia

Saturday, Sept 6th Wedding – Michelle Dardaris & Joseph Bassett III

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 Gaza and the rest of the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Kim Burdumy, Ellen Mondlak, Lee Constantine Elia, Wayne Merkle (7 yrs.), George Touros (11 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 Gaza and the rest of the Middle East, the people in Ukraine, Roxane Ghicondey, Cheri, 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.

Sponsors needed for ALL of September, Nov 30, December 14, 21, 28

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

July 20th Entela Ndrecka & Family

July 27th Fiori & Ilirjan Papa in celebration of Ilirjan & Elias Nameday

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 No Sponsor

Aug 31st Paula Bendo

NO SPONSORS SEPT 7, 14, 21, 28

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

6th Sunday of Matthew (the paralytic): The Lord desires to see something from man, in order that He might act. It says here: “*He saw their faith*”. The paralytic was not able on his own to go to the Lord. For this reason, he was brought by others, and the Lord saw their faith. Still, he means here that in some way He also saw the faith of the paralytic. He, the paralytic, would not have come to the Lord if he had not believed. And, immediately, the Lord said: “*Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you*”.

On another occasion, Christ said: “*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world*”. On this occasion it is as though He were saying: “I am here to **heal** man of his **bodily illness**, but first and foremost to heal him of sin, the sickness of the **soul**”. It is a big deal to feel that your sins are forgiven, that God forgives you, and that He has accepted you. Just as your blood circulates through your veins, in this same way you ought to feel God's forgiveness, circulating through you.

Not one of us should have even the smallest **doubt** that if the Lord sees our faith, He will immediately answer and straightway give us His forgiveness, i.e., that which we are seeking. In order though for the Lord to forgive you, you have to arrive at the point of saying: “My God, I do not want to sin anymore.”



The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather

Read more <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2010/07/20/102060-holy-glorious-prophet-elijah>

Congratulations to our 2025 Nick Naum Scholarship Recipients **The awards will be presented today after the Divine Liturgy:** *Xavier Chanoine*, son of Reem Tarazi & Pierre Chanoine, *Alexander Dardaris*, son of Christine & Greg Dardaris, *Olivia Highland*, daughter of Stephanie Kosta, *Juliana Melnik*, daughter of Susan & Vlad Melnik, *Athanasius Mondlak* son of Michele Sarkos & John Mondlak.

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 if you have any questions or would like to serve**

Archdiocesan Youth Council Our Archdiocese is seeking one young person from each parish or community to come together and make decisions about allocating charitable funds on our behalf. Interested individuals must be between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-two (22), active in the life and worship of their local Church, and willing to look into and speak up for the things they believe in. Please talk to your pastor and/or parish council and let them know of your interest so that they can forward your name to the chancery.

Monthly Giving for July: Paper Towels