

## The Weekly Messenger – August 10, 2025

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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This Week Epistle: I Corinthians 3:9-17 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Next Week Epistle: I Corinthians 4:9-16 (10th after Pentecost) Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

### Upcoming Events:

THURSDAY Aug 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos

Friday, Aug 15<sup>th</sup> Dormition of the Theotokos

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 40- day Memorial +Lee Elia

Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 3-year Memorial +William Spiro

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

Monday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> Nativity of the Theotokos

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Wedding - Jovana Vasili & Martin Qyra 2:00 pm

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, the victims of the war in Gaza and the rest of the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Dylan, Kim Burdumy, Ellen Mondlak, Lee Constantine Elia, Elizabeth Jones (6 yrs.), Jorgo Polo (6 yrs.), Margaret Rubis (12 yrs.), Nikolas Theokary (24 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, Newly Illuminated Jovana Vasili, Newly Illuminated Martin Qyra, Klaidi Kosta, Ilirian Disha, Richard Cotto, 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](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)**

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

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

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

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Diane Lescas & Tana Elia in memory of +Lee Elia

Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Coraluzzi/Spiro Families in Memory of +Bill

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Marinela & Fred Tsapournas

Aug 31<sup>st</sup> Paula Bendo

**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>*

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:** Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat was in the middle of the sea, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against it. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them, walking on the sea.

But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a spirit!"

And they cried out for fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come to you on the water."

Jesus said, "Come." So, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the mighty wind, he was afraid, and beginning

to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind became calm. And those in the boat came and worshipped Jesus, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."



**August 15<sup>th</sup> The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos** is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk11.27-28). <https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/dormition-of-the-theotokos>

**Happy Birthday to John Melnik** who celebrated his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 9, 2025. John is a longtime altar server and Sunday school participant. He is the son of our Choir members, Vlad and Susan and brother of Juliana. Many Years John!

**Coffee Hour open dates:** We do not have coffee hour sponsors for the following dates:

- Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 30<sup>th</sup>
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 28<sup>th</sup> Please coordinate with a friend or family member and sponsor a coffee hour!

**Financial Update:** To date we have received 76 pledges totaling \$57,911 and we have received \$25,437. Our budget was based on receiving pledges totaling \$63,000.00. To make a pledge for 2025 visit our website <https://stjcaoc.org/pledge/> If you made a pledge for 2025– thank you very much! Please contact our Treasurer, Zach Smith with questions. <mailto:treasurer@stjcaoc.org>

**Monthly Giving for August: Napkins**