

The Weekly Messenger – August 17, 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: I Corinthians 4:9-16 Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Next Week Epistle: I Corinthians 9:2-12 (11th after Pentecost) Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Upcoming Events:

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

Saturday, Oct 11th Church Fall Clean-up 2:00 pm – 5:00pm This is a good way for students to earn community service hours.

Oct 12th Chrismation - Colleen Ryan-Xhoxhi

Oct 19th Semi Annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour

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, Lee Constantine Elia, Dylan, Kim Burdumy, Ellen Mondlak, Gregory Mallozzi (2 yrs.), Deacon 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, 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*

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

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

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

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

Sept 7th Marinela & Fred Tsapournas

Sept 21st NO SPONSOR

Aug 31st Paula Bendo

Sept 14th Papakroni Family

Sept 28th NO SPONSOR

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

- September 21st, 28th October 5th. November 30th
- December 14th Dec 21st Dec 28th Please coordinate with a friend or family member and sponsor a coffee hour!

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: A man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” And Jesus answered, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith, even as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting.” As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day.”

Dormition of the Theotokos: On Thursday, August 14th at 6:00 pm we had 10 people attend the Vespertal Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos. For those who were not able to attend you can watch the Vespertal Liturgy <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlZoQKPpPqw>

We need volunteers for our Sunday School Program. Our Director, Ilirjan Papa needs your help! Teaching experience is not necessary - Teachers do not have to prepare lesson plans and do not have to be in church every Sunday. In order to have a successful program **we must have teachers and parents must bring their children to church on Sunday.** Contact Ilirjan or Father Kai if you are willing to help.

Parish Council At our semi-annual Parish Meeting in October we will be electing members to serve on Parish Council. A member of a church parish council plays a vital role in supporting Father Kai and contributing to the overall well-being of the parish community. Their responsibilities typically include participating in meetings, providing input on parish affairs, and representing the views of the parishioners. Council members also play a key role in fostering a welcoming and vibrant parish environment, promoting the church's mission of worship, education, and service. Please contact Father Kai if you would like to serve on the Parish Council.

Sunday School: FIRST DAY - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14th We will have the blessing of the backpacks by Father Kai to start the new school year. Please bring your backpack/bookbag to church so you may receive a blessing. All students, regardless of their age are welcome to bring your backpack/bookbag. Sunday school begins after Holy Communion and lasts about 30 minutes. Your children join you during coffee hour.

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