

The Weekly Messenger – August 24, 2025

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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This Week Epistle: I Corinthians 9:2-12 Gospel: Matthew 18:23-25

Next Week Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7 (Zoni of the Theotokos) Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Upcoming Events:

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 – prayers will be said on Sunday, Sept 7th.

Sept 14th Exaltation of the Holy Cross - First day of Sunday School/Blessing of the Backpacks

Sept 26-27 Albanian Archdiocese Assembly, Farmington Hills, MI (We have 9 people attending)

Saturday, Oct 4th Vespers 5:00 pm

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, William Spiro, Kim Burdumy, Ellen Mondlak, Dylan Shepherd (11 Yrs.), Katherine Zoidis (12 yrs.), Thomas Detskas (20 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 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!

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>

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. “But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. “When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Children’s Sermon Beginning in September, Father Kai will present a children’s sermon on the first Sunday of each month. The third Sunday of each month Father Kai will have a sermon geared toward teenagers. Please bring your kids to church!

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.

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. 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.

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.

Monthly Giving for August: Napkins