

The Weekly Messenger – August 31, 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: Hebrews 9:1-7 Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Next Week Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday before the Holy Cross Gospel: John 3:13-17)

Upcoming Events:

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 (6 yrs.), 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, 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*

Monthly Giving for August: Napkins

12th Sunday after Pentecost: At that time, a man asked Jesus a very important question. He asked, “What do I need to do to get to heaven? Jesus helped him remember God’s commandments, like “do not steal, and do not kill.” Jesus also reminded the man that we should love our neighbor. The man said that he had kept all the commandments. Jesus then told him that if he wanted to be perfect, he could do one more thing--he could sell what he owned, give the money to the poor, and follow Jesus as a disciple. The man became sad, because he owned many things and did not want to give them up to follow Jesus

First of September: Holy Days in the Orthodox Church The ecclesiastical year, which according to Byzantine practice begins on **the first of September**, is divided between movable and immovable or fixed holy days. Although the first of September is considered the start of the Church year, according to the Orthodox Church calendar, the real liturgical center of the annual cycle of Orthodox worship is the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. All elements of Orthodox liturgical piety point to and flow from Easter, the celebration of the New Christian Passover. Even the “fixed feasts” of the Church such as Christmas and Epiphany which are celebrated according to a fixed date on the calendar take their liturgical form and inspiration from the Paschal feast.



September 1st is the 6th anniversary of the repose of our beloved Archbishop Nikon. Archbishop Nikon served as the Bishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese from 2003 – 2019. He visited St. John Chrysostom on many occasions. He had a gentle manner and a kind smile, . Read more about Archbishop Nikon <https://albanianarchdiocese.org/pasthierarchs> May his Memory be Eternal

Raffle Basket to benefit Sunday School: Elisabeth Papa came up has put together another basket for a raffle with the proceeds to benefit the Sunday School. Elisabeth coordinated a raffle last year and raised over \$500.00. The basket contains an Owala 20 oz FreeSip Sway Stainless Water Bottle, Sol de Janerio Delicia Drench Jet Set from Sephora, a night light and many school supplies. She bought the items in the basket with her own money and put the basket together herself. Please buy a raffle tix from the Chairperson of our Sunday School Fundraising Committee, Elisabeth Papa!!



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 you 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.

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.