

## The Weekly Messenger – September 14, 2025

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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**This Week Epistle:** Epistle I Corinthians 1:18-24 **Gospel John** 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30(-35)

**Next Week Epistle:** Sunday after Holy Cross Galatians 2:16-20 **Gospel:** Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

### Upcoming Events:

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>** Vespers 5:00 pm

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup>** 3-yr Memorial Jonathan Rhodes

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

**Oct 12<sup>th</sup>** Chrismation - Colleen Ryan-Xhoxhi

**Oct 19<sup>th</sup>** 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, Harry Mallios (2 yrs.), Jaje Kevo (23 yrs.), Peter Steffa (47 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, Newly married Michelle Dardaris & Joseph Bassett III, The Dardaris & Bassett Families, 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/>

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Papakroni Family

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> Petuqi/Prifti/Pire families

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Fr. Dennis & Sarah in memory of Jonathan

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Kashari Family

**Sept 28<sup>th</sup>** Hot Dog Sale

**Oct 12<sup>th</sup>** Sergio & Colleen

**Oct 26<sup>th</sup>** Jola & Gjergji Gjogu

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

- November 30<sup>th</sup> December 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!

*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 September: Paper towels**

### SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. On the day of the Feast at the conclusion of the Matins or of the Divine Liturgy, a special service is held. The Cross is placed on a tray surrounded by branches of basil and is taken in solemn procession through the church to the chanting of the Hymn of the Feast. The tray is placed on a table, and the priest takes the Cross and offers petitions from each side of the table, the four directions of the compass. This represents the universal nature of the offering of Christ upon the Cross. As the people respond by chanting "Lord have mercy", the priest raises and lowers the cross, a commemoration of its finding and exaltation. At the conclusion of the service, the people come and venerate the cross and receive the basil from the priest. The basil is used and offered, as it was the fragrant flower growing where the Cross was found.

**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost To Be Chosen for The Kingdom** The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again, he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard of it, he was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to look at the guests he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

**First day of Sunday school and Blessing of the backpacks today after the Divine Liturgy!**

**Raffle Basket to benefit Sunday School:** Elisabeth Papa 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!!

**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.