

**The Weekly Messenger – September 21, 2025**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

**Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai) 484-843-4209 [fr.kai@stjcaoc.org](mailto:fr.kai@stjcaoc.org)**

Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)

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

**Next Week Epistle: 1st Sunday of Luke II Corinthians 6:1-10 (16th after Pentecost) Luke 5:1-11**

**Upcoming Events:**

**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

**Saturday, Oct 25<sup>th</sup>** Baptism of Talulah Rose Krygier 10:00 am daughter of Kristin Cosmo & Stephan Krygier

**Oct 26<sup>th</sup>** Fall Costume Party during coffee hour

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese (2 yrs.), the victims of the war in Gaza and the rest of the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Jonathan Rhodes (3 yrs.), Lillian Hartman (15 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 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](mailto:mailto:treasurer@stjcaoc.org)*

**First Sunday of Luke:** Saint Luke, was of Greek origin born in the Hellenistic city of Antioch, and was extremely educated. His studies included Greek philosophy, medicine, and art in his youth. He was also a professional physician. St. Luke came to Jerusalem where he came to believe in the Lord. He and Cleopas met the resurrected Lord on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24).

After Pentecost, Luke returned to Antioch and worked with the Apostle Paul, traveling with him to Rome, and converting Jews and pagans to the Christian Faith. “Luke, the beloved physician... greets you,” writes the Apostle Paul to the Colossians (Colossians 4:14). At the request of Christians, St. Luke wrote his Gospel in the first century. According to some accounts this took place around 60 A.D., and according to others around 80 A.D.

After St. Paul’s martyrdom, St. Luke preached the Gospel throughout Italy, Dalmatia, Macedonia, and other regions. He painted icons of the Most-holy Theotokos—not just one, but three—as well as icons of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. For this reason, St. Luke is considered the founder of Christian iconography.

In his old age, he visited Libya and Upper Egypt; from Egypt he returned to Greece, where he continued to preach and convert many with great zeal despite his age.

In addition to his Gospel, St. Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles and dedicated each of these works to Theophilus, the governor of Achaia. Luke was 84 years old when the wicked idolaters tortured him for the sake of Christ and hanged him from an olive tree in the town of Thebes, in Beothia of Greece.



**Thank you, Linda Kosta,** for providing the flowers, bouquets for the children to carry and making the beautiful arrangement for the Elevation of the Holy Cross. It was a wonderful day!

**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!!



**Congratulations to Michelle Dardaris & Joseph Bassett III** Michelle & Joseph were married on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> at St. John Chrysostom. Michelle is the third generation in Dardaris Family to be married at St. Johns. Michelle’s parents, Mike & Carolyn Dardaris were married at St. Johns as were her Grandparents, William & Dorothy Dardaris. The church was standing room only. The bride was radiant, the groom and Koumbaro, Reader Zach Dardaris were very handsome! Congratulations and Many Years to the Dardaris & Bassett families!

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm** we will have our Fall Church Clean-up. We need your help as we have all of the needed cleaning supplies, we need people to use them! This is an excellent way for student to earn community service hours. Please mark your calendar and come

**Monthly Giving for September: Paper towels**