

**he Weekly Messenger – November 23, 2025**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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**This Week Epistle: 9th Sunday of Luke Ephesians 2:14-22 (24th aft Pentecost) Gospel Luke 12:16-21**

*Next Week Epistle: St. Andrew I Corinthians 4:9-16 Gospel: John 1:35-51*

**Upcoming Events:**

**Thursday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup>** Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple Vesperal Liturgy 6:00 pm

**Friday, Nov 21<sup>th</sup>** Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple Vesperal Liturgy Thursday night

**Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> Flag Day Prayers at 11:00 am** Memorials Helen and Raphael Theokary

**Friday, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>** Albanian Flag Day

**Saturday Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm** Baptism of Aaron & Nicholas Spiro, sons of Chris & Kimlita Spiro  
and grandsons of Jim & Elaine Spiro,

**Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm** Decorate the church for the Nativity followed by Vespers

**Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** Sunday School Christmas Pageant following the Divine Liturgy  
and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus during coffee hour.

**Wednesday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Vesperal Liturgy @ 4:00 pm

**Thursday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**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, Fatime Hyseneshi, Helen Theokary (5 yrs.), Raphael Theokary (5 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, Billy Cotto, Christine Schaeffer, Paul Dimitri, Linda Kosta, Marjana Kokalari, 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.

**Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>** Janice & Mike Leyden      **Nov 30<sup>th</sup>** Donna Pappas

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** Salavachi & Brahollari Families in Honor Niko & Nikolas Nameday

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** Lakuriqi and Gremi Families in honor of Nicholas Gremi's Nameday

**Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** Kevin Begaj      **Dec 28<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR**

**Nativity Fast:** The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on **November 15 and concluding on December 24**, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us *conscious of our dependence upon God*

**Ninth Sunday of Luke:** The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."



**Nameday Celebration:** was the 94th Anniversary of our Parish. Bishop Nikodhim visited our parish and celebrated the Divine with Father Kai and Father Dennis. It was a wonderful day made better by our parishioners who attended the Liturgy. Following the Divine Liturgy, we went upstairs for a wonderful luncheon provided by our parishioners, Thank-you to all who attended and all who brought something to share! A big thank you to our

KITCHEN CREW: Linda Croke, Mike Leyden, Tom Moore, Colleen Xhoxhi, Arianna Mondlak., Karen Kane and Michele Sarkos. Thank you, Athanasius and Elias Mondlak for taking care of the Livestream while Sergio received his award. Photos of our celebration are available on our website

<https://stjcaoc.org/media/>

**Congratulations Sergio Georgi,** who was presented with the **HERALD OF SAINT CONSTANTINE AND SAINT HELENA**, which shall be conferred upon a select Layman who has distinguished himself or herself with extraordinary service in the local parish. Sergio, has been a member of Parish Council for the past 8 years and is responsible for our website, Livestream and all of the technology updates at our parish. Bishop Nikodhim presented Sergio with the award as his proud wife, Colleen, parents Aleks & Eda and sister Vilma looked on! Sergio is most worthy to receive this honor. AXIOS! Many Years!!!



**Christmas Sock, Underwear & Blanket Drive:** We are collecting socks, underwear and blankets for the homeless. A box is located in the vestibule near the candle stand. Please drop off a package of socks, underwear and a blanket.

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 pm:** We will gather at church to decorate the Christmas tree in the church and the tree in the church hall. We hope you can bring your children and/or grandchildren and Godchildren to decorate the trees and then stay for Vespers at 5:00 pm.



**Thank you, Gentian Marku,** for painting the inside of our church. You did a fabulous job and everyone's comments are that the church looks beautiful! If any parishioners need any painting done, we highly recommend Gentian. 267-516-7355

**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 November: Bottles of Water**