

he Weekly Messenger – November 30, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: St. Andrew I Corinthians 4:9-16 **Gospel:** John 1:35-51:12:16-21

Next Week Epistle: 10th Sunday of Luke Ephesians 5:8-19 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Upcoming Events:

Friday, Nov 28th Albanian Flag Day

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

Saturday, Nov 29th, VESPERS @ 5:00 pm

Saturday, Dec 6th 9:30 am Divine Liturgy - St. Nicholas – The Wonderworker, followed by
decorating the church for the Nativity this is a change from what was previously posted

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

Wednesday, Dec 24th Christmas Eve Vespers Liturgy @ 4:00 pm

Thursday, Dec 25th 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, Marcie Moore (12 yrs), Hariklia Kiki Notskas (27
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*

Coffee Hour: The 2025 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule.

Nov 30th Donna Pappas

Dec 7th Salavachi & Brahollari Families in Honor Niko & Nikolas Nameday

Dec 14th Lakuriqi and Gremi Families in honor of Nicholas Gremi's Nameday

Dec 21st Kevin Begaj

Dec 28th NO SPONSOR

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.

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.

Leavetaking of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos Into the Temple Commemorated on

November 25 According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the
Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and
Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they
would dedicate it to the service of God. When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the
holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances,
and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted
candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest
and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the
sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on
each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called “Psalms of Ascent.”) The child Mary, so it seemed,
could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by
the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then
the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies,
where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore,
all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

Independence Day Date: November 28 Dita e Pavarësisë (“Independence Day” in English) was
declared in 1912 by Ismail Qemali, founder of the modern Albanian state and its first head of state
and government. After five hundred years of Ottoman domination, an independent Albania was
proclaimed on November 28, 1912. On this day the Albanian flag was raised by Ismail Qemali in
Flora, Albania to publicly proclaim the independence of Albania from its Ottoman authorities.



Thank you, Vlad Melmik for making this beautiful walnut stand for our Cross
with a relic and candle holders. Vlad, who is our Choir Director is quite the
woodworker. The stand is most beautiful! Thank you, again, Vlad.

Saturday, December 6th @ 10:45 am: 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.



Flag Day our Sunday school students were very enthusiastic waving
Albanian and America Flags for Flag Day. Father Kai said a special prayer to
commemorate the very special day.

2025 Pledge Drive - As we enter the final month of the year, we are falling short of our goal of
\$63,000.00 pledges. To date \$58,411 has been pledged. Of that we have received \$35,241. This is
a little more than one half of our goal with 30 days left in the year. We are asking you financially
support your church by making and fulfilling your pledge in 2025. If you have any questions
please contact treasurer@stjcaoc.org or any member of Parish Council. Thank you to the families
who have made their 2025 pledge!

Monthly Giving for November: Bottles of Water

