

The Weekly Messenger – December 14, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: 11th Sunday of Luke Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24, Matthew 22:14

Next Week Epistle: Sunday before the Nativity Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Upcoming Events:

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 Vespertal Liturgy @ 4:00 pm

Thursday, Dec 25th Christmas Liturgy 10:00am

Jan 4th, 2026 Blessing of the water and Part 1 of the Icon Auction during coffee hour

Monday, Jan 5th 2026 Vespertal Liturgy 6 pm Theophany/Epiphany

Jan 11th Part 2 of the Icon Auction during coffee hour

Monday Jan 12th Parish Council meeting via ZOOM 7:30 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, Soteria Douris, Elias (Lou) Verdy, Fatime Hyseneshi, Helen Theokary (5 yrs.), George Douris (12 yrs.), Peter Kosta (13 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 Illuminated Arron James Spiro, Newly Illuminated Nicholas Andrew Spiro, Michele Coraluzzi, Adam Coraluzzin, Christopher & Kimlita Spiro, Joanne Risley, Billy Cotto, Christina Schaeffer, 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 2026 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Please pick a date! Thank you Paula Bendo for making the sign-up sheet!

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

Dec 21st Kevin Begaj

Dec 28th NO SPONSOR

Jan 4th, 2026 NO SPONSOR

Jan 11th 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, 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.

11th Sunday of Luke: On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.



Sunday of the Forefathers Commemorated on December 14

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Our church and church hall are beautifully decorated – Thank you Vasil, Erlina, Grigor and Theodore Papakroni, Marinela, Fred, Helena Tsapournas, Linda Croke and Linda Notskas for working together to bring the Christmas Spirit to St. Johns! Everything looks GREAT!

Christmas Card Alert: We are asking our parishioners to send Christmas cards to those who are not able to come to church and those who are ill. If you have someone who could use some holiday cheer, please send us their name & address. A list will be available at the candle stand or you can request the list of names by emailing: info@stjcaoc.org

Sunday school: December 21st following the Divine Liturgy, the Sunday school will present their annual Christmas Pageant. The most precious kids in the Philadelphia area attend St. Johns and this is a must-see event. Bring your kids, your grandkids, nieces, nephews and your camera. You don't want to miss the pageant. Santa and Mrs. Clause will visit in the church hall during coffee hour.

Annual Icon Auction: January 4th & 11th 2026. We ask that you return the Icon so that we can prepare for the 2026 Auction. A list of Icons available for bids will be on our website. Even if you are not able to attend the Icon Auction you can still submit a bid or make a donation in honor of your patron saint. If you bid on an Icon in 2025 and have not made your donation there is still time. Please send a check or go online [DONATE](#) Thank you!

2026 Calendars are available at the Candle Stand. If you want the calendar mailed to you, please contact info@stjcaoc.org or call 609-685-1651. Thank you to Vraim Funeral Home for sponsoring the printing of the 2026 Calendars

If you have something for the Weekly Messenger, please email <mailto:info@stjcaoc.org>
Monthly Giving for December: Napkins