

The Weekly Messenger – December 28, 2025

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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This Week Epistle: Sunday after the Nativity Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Upcoming Events:

Dec 27 & 28th Bishop Nikodhim visits Ss. Peter & Paul

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

Monday, Jan 5th 2026 Vesperal 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

Jan 25th Memorial Jim Bendo 2 years

Feb 8th Souper Bowl Sunday

Week of Feb 19th Fr. Kai visits Albania with Bishop Nikodhim

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, Ottavio Mallozzi, Soteria Douris, Nicholas Zoto (4 yrs.), Tetua Doko, Fr. John Kuchta (6 yrs.), Elaine Quirias (9 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, Christoper & Kimlita Spiro, Joanne Risley, Billy Cotto, Christina Schaeffer, Linda Kosta, Marjana Kokalari, Betty Subashi, Gerald Mondlak, Nancy, 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 and sign up or go online to sign-up.

Dec 28th Edvin Vasiu & Cindy Kamberaj in Memory of Cindy's mother, Tetua Doko

Jan 4th, 2026 Vjollca Gjergo **Jan 11th NO SPONSOR**

Jan 18th NO SPONSOR **Jan 25th Bendo Family in Memory of Jim (2 yrs.)**

Feb 1st NO SPONSOR **Feb 8th Souper Bowl Sunday**

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.

If you have something for the Weekly Messenger, please email mailto:info@stjcaoc.org



Sunday after the Nativity: Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James



Bravo to our Sunday School students for a wonderful Christmas Pageant! Everyone did a great job, Narrators, Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. A perfect day. Many thanks to Paula Bendo and Tom Moore for their participation as Santa and Mrs. Clause during coffee hour. The kids were so

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

Home Blessings: If you would like Father Kai to visit you home in Jan. 2026, call Father Kai 484-843-4209 or, email fr.kai@stjcaoc.org If Father Kai does not answer your call leave a message with your name, address and phone number. He will contact you to arrange a date and time for his visit. What to have ready for your home blessing: *An Icon, candle, small bowl for Holy Water, List of family names to be prayed for one column living, one column departed.*

If you mailed a Christmas donation to the church, please to check your bank statements to be sure any checks you sent to the church have been cashed. We still struggle with the mail delivery at the church.

Monthly Giving for December: Napkins

Gëzuar Vitin E Ri! Happy New Year!