

**The Weekly Messenger – December 7, 2025**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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

**Next Week Epistle: 11th Sunday of Luke Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24, Matthew 22:14**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 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

**Wednesday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30pm**

**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 Vespertal Liturgy @ 4:00 pm**

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

**Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Blessing of the water and Part 1 of the Icon Auction** during coffee hour

**Monday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 Vespertal Liturgy 6 pm Theophany/Epiphany**

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup> Part 2 of the Icon Auction** during coffee hour

**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, Mary Croke (10 yrs.), Gregory Bendo (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, 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, 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 2026 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet will be posted in the side vestibule. Thank you Paula Bendo for making the sign-up sheet!

**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**

**Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 NO SPONSOR**

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Monthly Giving for December: Napkins**



**Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia**  
**Commemorated on Dec 6 – e will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am** Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God. [READ MORE](#)

**Congratulations and Many Years** Aaron James Spiro & Nicholas Andrw Spiro who were baptized Saturday, Nov 29<sup>th</sup>. Aaron & Nichol's Godparents are Michele & Aaron Coraluzzi. They are the sons of Christopher and Kimlita Spiro and the grandsons of Jim & Elaine Spiro.



**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](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)

**Christmas Sock and Underwear Drive:** Linda Croke and Linda Notskas are collecting socks and underwear for the homeless. A box will be located in the vestibule near the candle stand. Please drop off a package of socks or underwear or both!

**Sunday school:** December 21<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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](mailto:treasurer@stjcaoc.org) or any member of Parish Council. Thank you to the families who have made their 2025 pledge!

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

**Per Shume Vjet Gezuar!** Dec 4 Great Martyr Barbara, Dec 6 St. Nicholas, Dec 12 St. Spiridon, Dec 15 St. Eleutherios, Dec 17 Holy Prophet Daniel, Dec 23 St. Naum, Dec 25 Christmas Day, Sunday after Christmas St. Joseph the Betrothed, St. David the King, Dec 27 St. Stephen the Protomartyr.