

The Weekly Messenger – April 12, 2020
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18

Remember to check our [WEBSITE](#) for additional information. As we enter the most Holy Week of the year, we hope you continue to “shelter in place” and practice “social distancing”. The medical experts maintain this is what will contain the Covid-19 Virus and allow us to return to a somewhat normal life.

We know there will not be any liturgical services at St. John Chrysostom at least through the end of April. Metropolitan Tikhon has directed the closure of all parishes in the Archdiocese and will advise us when we can return. Although this is a very difficult time for all of us, we know this is what is best for us and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Unfortunately, this pandemic has come at the most holy time of the year for Orthodox Christians. Today is Palm Sunday, the celebration of Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Usually we are gathered for the Divine Liturgy, the processions of our smiling children with their palms adorned with bells, followed by fellowship and a delicious pancake breakfast (always provided by the Adams Family).

This year we will be at home with our families. Hopefully, you will be able to view one of the many livestreamed services on your computer and have a pancake breakfast in your home. We received our shipment of Palms, ordered before we were directed to suspend services. Our plan is at some point, when we are advised we can return to our beloved St. John Chrysostom Church, we will gather to bless the palms and distribute them. We also plan to have a Pascha service when we return to church.

May God Bless and keep you and your family!

ZOOM: We had our first parish council meeting on Tuesday evening via Zoom! It went well with 10 people participating. We have been sending cards, the Weekly Messenger and making phone calls to parishioners. Our offer to assist any parishioner or friend in need stands. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please contact us and we will help in any way we can. Contact us info@stjohnsphila.org or call 609-685-1651.

We ask that you continue to support the Church so that together we may serve our family and our community during this difficult time. Your offerings of support may be submitted by mail to the church. We also have online giving available on our church website for one-time and periodic giving. [DONATE](#) Again, we thank you for your generous support.



Palm Sunday

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Victims of Covid-19 virus, Andy Subashi (12 yrs.), Arthur Marquess, Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email info@stjohnsphila.org*

Commemorations for the Living: Health care workers, First responders, Victims of Covid-19 virus, John Pratsinakis, Dr. Joseph Zavatsky, Fred Graziani, William, Dorothy Tomassini, William Spiro, Roxane Ghicondey, Lee Constantine Elia, Janice Leyden, Lisa Kosta Bowser, Erin Thack, Paul, Lee Gedremenc, Diane Mallios, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, George Robos, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Nick Naum Scholarship Applications: are being accepted. The applications must be submitted by June 1, 2020 via email to NNapplication Information is available on our website <https://stjohnsphila.org/scholarship> or by emailing nnscholarship@stjohnsphila.org The following are members of the Nick Naum Scholarship Committee: Diane Coraluzzi, Carolyn Dardaris, Sandi Fiss, Stephanie Kosta, Nicole Ferrara, Reem Tarazi.