

The Weekly Messenger – May 10, 2020
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42 Gospel John 5:1-15

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
KRISHTI U NGJALL! VËRTET U NGJALL!



The Paralytic The fourth Sunday is dedicated to Christ's healing of the paralytic (Jn 5). The man is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. Through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, "to sin no more that nothing worse befall you" (Jn 5.14).

One wonders sometimes about why the Gospel story of the healing of the paralytic was chosen for the Paschal season. One understands why the stories of Thomas and the Myrrh-bearers were chosen, but the paralytic? Perhaps our incomprehension is rooted in our modern separation of Pascha from baptism. In the early Church from at least the time of Tertullian (d. 220), Pascha was considered as *the* time for baptism, and the spectacle of many catechumens lining up to be baptized in the baptistery (a separate building in those days) and then processing with solemn joy into the church to be anointed with laying on of hands by the bishop forged an indelible link in people's minds between Pascha and baptism. Even now in our Pascha-night Liturgy, in place of the Trisagion hymn we sing "As many as have been baptized into Christ." In early tradition, Pascha meant baptism and baptism always had a paschal feel to it. The two were inextricably linked.

Read more: <https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-lawrence-farley/the-paralytic-and-the-pool>

We will continue our ZOOM Coffee Hour with Father Dennis on Sunday, May 10, 2020 12:00 pm ZOOM Coffee hour: CLICK THIS LINK and join

<https://stratfordschools.zoom.us/j/99052791171>

Don't have a computer - no problem: You can dial in by phone to join:

+1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID 990 5279 1171

We will use this link and this phone number each week.



Happy Mother's Day! Gëzuar Ditë e Nënës!



Mother's Day in the United States is annually held on the second Sunday of May. It celebrates motherhood and it is a time to appreciate mothers and mother figures. Many people give gifts, cards, flowers, candy, a meal in a restaurant or other treats to their mother and mother figures, including grandmothers, great-grandmothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers.

Church Update: We do not anticipate gathering at St. John Chrysostom to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the remainder of the month of May. Hopefully we will be able to return to church sometime in June. We will keep you posted and also check our website for updates. [Website](#)

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Victims of Covid-19 virus, Elida Xhoxhi (3 yrs.), Kostandin Pajcini (Kostandin's grandfather), Lluka Thodhori, Peter Melnik (1 yr.), 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, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Kasiani Pajcini and family, Tina Smith, John Pratsinakis, Dr. Joseph Zavatsky, Dorothy Tomassini, William Spiro, Roxane Ghicondey, Janice Leyden, Lisa Kosta Bowser, Lee Gedremenc, Diane Mallios, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, George Robos, Virginia Daka, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

In these extraordinary times we would like to recognize and congratulate those graduating. Please send information about the graduates in your family, College, High School, 8th Grade, etc. We would love to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. Send an email to info@stjohnsphila.org Include the name of the graduate and the school from which they graduated. For 8th grade let us know what high school they will be attending next year, HS grads if they are attending college, the name of the college, or career path. College graduates, their degree and plans for the future. We would also like the proud parents and grandparents' names. Let's give them some recognition. Thank-you!

Per Shume Vjet, Gezuar! To our parishioners who celebrate Namedays in May: 5th Great Martyr Irene, 9th Martyr Christopher, May 12th St. Thomas the Apostle, May 21st Ss Constantine & Helen, May 30th Isaacius of Dalmatus.

Wishing all of our Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Aunts a very Happy Mother's Day!