

The Weekly Messenger – April 9, 2023

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18

**Upcoming Events:**

April 9<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy followed by Pancake Breakfast

Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:00 pm

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> Bridegroom Matins 6:00 pm

Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup> Holy Unction 6:00 pm

Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> Twelve Gospels 6:00 pm

Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> Holy Friday 10:00 am Decorate the Epitaphion, 5:00 pm Taking Down from the Cross, 7:00 pm Lamentations

Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am Great Saturday Liturgy

Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup> 11:30 pm Matins, Nocturns Paschal Liturgy

April 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm Paschal Agape Vespers Baptism Cindy Kamberaj

April 23<sup>rd</sup> St Thomas Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> Myrrh-bearing Women

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Jennie Sapnas (5 yrs.), Vrishida Zoto (10 yrs.), Kate Detskas (21 yrs), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

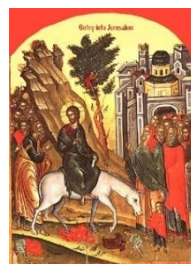
**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Mark, Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese, Archimandrite Nikodhim Preston, Father Joseph Ciarciaglino, the people in Ukraine, Newborn Paris Max, Elira, Nertil, Sophie Gorre, Paulette Steffa, Andrew Quirias, Reader Chris Manosis, Joyce Robert, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Virginia Daka, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey's Mother), Evangeline Prifti, 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)*

**Please mark your calendars, Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am** We need volunteers to come to church to decorate the Epitaphion. This is the first time we will actually decorate the Epitaphion in 3 years (due to Covid restrictions. Come and bring a friend or two!

**Holy Week & Pascha** Please check upcoming events for the dates and times for the Holy Week Services. *As is our tradition we are asking our parishioner to bring 6 eggs for our Paschal service, which begins @ 11:30 pm Saturday, April 15, 2023.* We will process around the block (weather permitting) on Holy Friday and Pascha. You are able to park in the Basilica of Ss Peter & Paul lot for Holy Week and Paschal services.

**Lazarus Saturday is a paschal celebration.** It is the only time in the entire Church Year that the resurrectional service of Sunday is celebrated on another day. At the liturgy of Lazarus Saturday, the Church glorifies Christ as “the Resurrection and the Life” who, by raising Lazarus, has confirmed the universal resurrection of mankind even before His own suffering and death.

Because of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, Christ was hailed by the masses as the long-expected Messiah-King of Israel. Thus, in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament, He entered Jerusalem, the City of the King, riding on the colt of an ass (Zech 9.9; Jn 12.12). The crowds greeted Him with branches in their hands and called out to Him with shouts of praise: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The Son of David! The King of Israel! Because of this glorification by the people, the priests and scribes were finally driven “to destroy Him, to put Him to death” (Lk 19.47; Jn 11.53, 12.10).



**The feast of Christ's triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday,** is one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. The services of this Sunday follow directly from those of Lazarus Saturday. The church building continues to be vested in resurrectional splendor, filled with hymns which continually repeat the Hosanna offered to Christ as the Messiah-King who comes in the name of God the Father for the salvation of the world.

At the vigil of the feast of Palm Sunday the prophecies of the Old Testament about the Messiah-King are read together with the Gospel accounts of the entry of Christ into Jerusalem. At Matins branches are blessed which the people carry throughout the celebration as the sign of their own glorification of Jesus as Savior and King. These branches are usually palms, or, in the Slavic churches, pussy willows which came to be customary because of their availability and their early blossoming in the springtime.

As the people carry their branches and sing their songs to the Lord on Palm Sunday, they are judged together with the Jerusalem crowd. For it was the very same voices which cried Hosanna to Christ, which, a few days later, cried Crucify Him! Thus, in the liturgy of the Church the lives of men continue to be judged as they hail Christ with the “branches of victory” and enter together with Him into the days of His “voluntary passion.”

**Coffee Hour Sponsor:** The 2023 Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule or sign up on our website: [COFFEE HOUR](#) We need sponsors in MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Pancake breakfast April 16<sup>th</sup> Pascha – no coffee hour  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> Betty Subashi in Memory of Andy 15 years April 30<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR  
May 7<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR May 14<sup>th</sup> Bendo & Fiss Families  
May 21st NO SPONSOR May 28<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR

**Red Egg Dye** is available at the candle stand. It is \$4.00 per pack.

**Monthly Giving for March:** paper napkins.