

**The Weekly Messenger – March 19, 2023**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1*

**Upcoming Events:**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** Veneration of the Holy Cross 1 year Memorial Dorothy Tomassini  
**Wednesday, March 22, 29, April 5 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm**  
**Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** Annunciation Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>** St. John Climacus 40 Day Memorial Vasilika Mihilli  
**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** St. Mary of Egypt  
**Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>**, Lazarus Saturday 10:00 am Liturgy & Sunday School Retreat  
**April 9<sup>th</sup>** Palm Sunday

**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 Cincy 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, Thoma, Vasilika Mihilli (Elvira Gusho's mother), Tuta Doko, Dorothy Tomassini (1 yr.), Jorgaq Lico (2 yrs.), Diane Mallios (2 yrs.), Charles Burdumy, (2 yrs.), Annie Dimitri (8 yrs.), Greg Costa (15 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, the people in Ukraine, Newly illuminated Edvin John Vasiu, his sponsors, Ervis Plaku & Shpresa Haska, Joyce Robert (Christine Dardaris' Mother), 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)*

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

**The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross.**

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.



As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

**Coffee Hour Sponsor:** The 2023 Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule or sign up on our website: [COFFEE HOUR](#) **We have no coffee hour sponsors for MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** Miss Dorothy's Family in her Memory

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** Elvira & Erion Gusho in memory of Vasilika Mihilli

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** NO SPONSOR

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** Pancake breakfast **April 16<sup>th</sup>** Pascha

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** Betty Subashi in Memory of Andy 15 years **April 30<sup>th</sup>** NO SPONSOR

**LAZARUS SATURDAY RETREAT:** April 8<sup>th</sup> Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am followed by the Sunday school retreat. We will have crafts, religious education and of course Meshe making. **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Father Kai continues to serve Pre-sanctified Liturgy Wednesday evenings @ 6:00pm.**

We plan to have Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and fellowship in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy. ***Father Kai will serve Presanctified liturgy every Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 29<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>.*** Come to church and experience this wonderful service.

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

**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.