

**The Weekly Messenger – March 26, 2023**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31*

**Upcoming Events:**

**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

**Wednesday, March 29, April 5 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm**

**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 Cindy Kamberaj

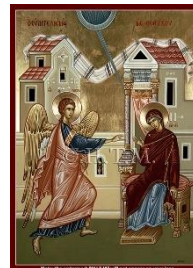
**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** St Thomas Sunday **April 30<sup>th</sup>** Myrrh-bearing Women

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Vasilika Mihilli (Elvira Gusho's mother), Thoma, Teuta Doko, Peter Mallios (7 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, Newborn Paris Max, Elira, Nertil, Sophie Gorre, Newly illuminated Edvin John Vasiu, his sponsors, Ervis Plaku & Shpresa Haska, Reader Chris Manosis, 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)*

**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!**

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



**March 25<sup>th</sup>** Every year during Great Lent, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos on March 25. This beautiful “festal interlude” allows us to again marvel before the great mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. At His conception “without seed” the “Word became flesh.” He will be born in nine months time, but the actual incarnation is marked when He entered the womb of the Virgin Mary—when she was “overshadowed” by the Holy Spirit. Since her Son is the pre-eternal Son, Word and Wisdom of God, she becomes the *Theotokos*—literally, the “God-bearer”. In an extraordinarily fine passage, the 14th century Saint Nicholas Cabasilas explains the role, not only of the Holy Trinity in this great mystery, but also that of the Theotokos, thus revealing to us the meaning of *synergy*, or of cooperating with God. Feast Days are not just theological ideas. They are days of worship, because it is in worship that we actualize and participate in the reality being commemorated: “Today is revealed the mystery that is from all eternity” we sing on the Great Feast of the Annunciation. We celebrate the Feasts Days of the Church liturgically so that we can gather as the Body of Christ and rejoice together over the saving events that manifest God’s mercy and grace to the world. On this feast let us praise God for the awesome mystery of the Incarnation.

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder** commemorates our Righteous Father John Climacus. He is called Climacus due to his authorship of the great spiritual work The Ladder of Divine Ascent. His commemoration is designated by the Church on one of the Sundays of Lent as his life and writings affirm him as a supreme bearer and proponent of Christian asceticism. The ascetic example of this great Saint of the Church inspires us in our Lenten journey.



**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**  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>** Elvira & Erion Gusho in memory of Vasilika Mihilli  
**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Marinela & Fred Tsapournas  
**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**

**Congratulation and Many Years to:** Elira and Nertil Gorre who welcomed their second child, a son, Paris Max, born March 15, 2023, weighing 8lbs 5 ozs. Mom, Dad, big sister Sophie and Parish are all doing well as they begin their lives as a family of four!

**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.