

The Weekly Messenger – April 7, 2024

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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This Week Epistle: Hebrews 4:24-26; 5:1-6

Gospel Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Next Week Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 6th Vespers 6:00 pm

April 7th Veneration of the Cross

Saturday, April 13th Vespers @ 6:00 pm

April 14th St. John Climacus

Saturday, April 20th Vespers @ 6:00 pm

Saturday, April 20th 10:00 am Akathist to the Theotokos

April 21st St Mary of Egypt

Saturday April 27th Lazarus Saturday & the Baptism of Anita Lefevre during the Liturgy

April 28th Palm Sunday The Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem - Pancake Breakfast

May 1st Great & Holy Wednesday Holy Unction 6:30 pm

May 2nd Great & Holy Thursday 9:00 am Liturgy of Last Supper this Liturgy establishes the Holy Eucharist Thursday evening 12 Gospels 6:30 pm

May 3rd Great & Holy Friday 10:00 am decorate Epitaphios, 5:00pm Taking down from the Cross 7:00 pm Lamentations

May 4th Great & Holy Saturday 11:00 am 1st Resurrection Liturgy 11:30 pm Nocturnes, Matins Paschal Liturgy

May 5th Holy Pascha/ Agape Vespers 1:00 pm

May 12th St Thomas Sunday

2-year Memorial Steven Cosmo

May 19th Myrrh-bearing Women

1-year Memorial Robert Dardaris

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, Robert Steffon, Paul Stavrou, Jennie Sapnas (6 yrs.), Lefteria Dhimitri (10 yrs.), Vrisidah Zoto (11 yrs.), William Satir (19 yrs.), Kathrine Detskas (22 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

Commemorations for the Living: His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim, Father Joseph Ciarciaglino, the people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, Newly Illuminated Sophie Gabriela Gorre, Newly Illuminated Paris Maximus Goore, Elira & Nertil Gorre, Arteida & Barry Reader David Brook, Reader Chris Manosis, Vladimir Melnik, Susan Melnik, Virginia Rubus, Teri Douris, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, Eugene, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Virginia Daka, 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*



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

The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

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.

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast,

where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labor set before us becomes apparent. Therefore, our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast. /

We need Coffee Hour Sponsors for the last Sunday in March and April please consider sponsoring a coffee with your family or friends:

sign-up on the sheet or click this link [CoffeeHourSignup](#)

April 7th NO Sponsor

April 21st NO Sponsor

May 5th PASCHA no coffee hour

May 12th Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of Steven

May 19th Dardaris Family in memory of Bob

April 14th NO Sponsor

April 28th Pancake Breakfast

May 26th Hot Dog Sale

Monthly Giving for April: Bottles of Water – any size