

The Weekly Messenger – March 24, 2024
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26

Gospel John 1:43-51

Next Week Epistle Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Gospel Mark 2:1-12

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, March 23rd Vespers @ 6:00 pm

March 24th Sunday of Orthodoxy/Blessing Family Icons Memorial for Carl Nowmos

Wednesday, March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm

March 24th Following the Divine Liturgy a short Vesper service for Annunciation

Monday, March 25th Annunciation Matins & Liturgy @ 6:00 pm

Saturday, March 30th Vespers @ 6:00 pm

March 31st Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

Saturday, April 6th Vespers 6:00 pm

April 7th Veneration of the Cross

April 14th St. John Climacus

April 21st St Mary of Egypt

Saturday April 27th Lazarus Saturday

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

April 30th Great & Holy Tuesday

May 1st Great & Holy Wednesday Holy Unction

May 2nd Great & Holy Thursday 12 Gospels

May 3rd Great & Holy Friday

May 4th Great & Holy Saturday

May 5th Holy Pascha

May 12th St Thomas 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, Carl Nowmos, Robert Steffon, Leri Chochua, Paul Stavrou, Dorothy Tomassini (3 yrs.), Annie Dimitri (9 yrs.), Greg Costa (16 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*

Congratulations and Many Years to the Gorre Family. On March 16th Sophie Gabriela and Paris Maximus were baptized at St. John Chrysostom. We are thrilled for Elira, Nertil and the entire Gorre Family.

Great Lent began this past Monday. The season of Great Lent is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is **the** living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors.

In the Orthodox Church, Great Lent is not a season of morbidity and gloominess. On the contrary, it is a time of joyfulness and purification. We are called to "anoint our faces" and to "cleanse our bodies as we cleanse our souls." The very first hymns of the very first service of Great Lent set the proper tone of the season:

Let us begin the lenten time with delight . . . let us fast from passions as we fast from food, taking pleasure in the good words of the Spirit, that we may be granted to see the holy passion of Christ our God and his holy Pascha, spiritually rejoicing.

Thy grace has arisen upon us, O Lord, the illumination of our souls has shown forth; behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the time of repentance (Vespers Hymns).

It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own.

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy: Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. The first Sunday is called the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 Jn 5.4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Gen 1.26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image.

Pre-sanctified Liturgy EVERY Wednesday night @ 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 27, April 3rd, April 10th, April 17th, April 24th 6:00 pm.** It is a beautiful service and we ask you and your families attend.

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](#)

March 24th Marion Merkle in memory of Carl Nowmos

April 7th NO Sponsor

April 21st NO Sponsor

May 5th PASCCHA no coffee hour

May 12th Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of Steven

May 19th Dardaris Family in memory of Bob

March 31st NO Sponsor

April 14th NO Sponsor

April 28th Pancake Breakfast

May 26th Hot Dog Sale

Monthly Giving for March: paper napkins.