

The Weekly Messenger – March 31, 2024
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Gospel Mark 2:1-12

Next Week Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, March 30th Vespers @ 6:00 pm **March 31st Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas**

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 7:30 pm Paish Council Meeting via ZOOM

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

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, Robert Steffon, Leri, Paul Stavrou, Peter Mallios (8 yrs.), Florence Vissar (9 yrs.), Nicholas Naum 1(11 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*

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, April 3rd, April 10th, April 17th, April 24th 6:00 pm.** It is a beautiful service and we ask you and your families attend.

Monthly Giving for March: paper napkins.



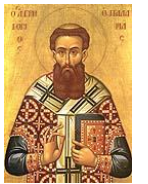
March 25th Every year during Great Lent, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos on March 25. This beautiful “festal interlude” allows us to again marvel before the great mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. At His conception “without seed” the “Word became 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 Second Sunday of Great Fast is the commemoration of Saint

Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God’s divine glory.



We held a very successful Women’s Day Dance attended by over 100 people. Everyone had a wonderful time, dancing, eating and creating memories with their family and friends. Thank you, Nilda Salavachi, for organizing this event and to DJ Sergio for spinning Albanian Music and a wonderful light show. The Women’s Day Dance raised over \$7000.00 for our Parish. Special thanks to the kitchen crew: Colleen Xhoxhi, Sergio Georgi, Linda Croke, Michele Sarkos, Traci & Kristin Cosmo and Donna Dimitri. Also, a big THANK YOU to those who helped clean up after the event. Well Done!

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 31st Harallambi Coni & Margarita Sevi in honor of Fred’s Nameday Shën Harallambi

April 7th NO Sponsor

April 14th NO Sponsor

April 21st NO Sponsor

April 28th Pancake Breakfast

May 5th PASCHA no coffee hour

May 12th Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of Steven

May 19th Dardaris Family in memory of Bob

May 26th Hot Dog Sale