

The Weekly Messenger – May 5, 2024
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai) 484-843-4209 fr.kai@stjcaoc.org

Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: info@stjcaoc.org

This Week Epistle: Acts 1:1-18

Gospel: John 1:1-17

Next Week Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Upcoming Events:

May 4th Great & Holy Saturday **11:00 am** First Resurrection Liturgy

11:30 pm Nocturnes, Matins, Paschal Liturgy

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

May 12th St Thomas Sunday (Mother's Day) 2-year Memorial Steven Cosmo

Monday, May 13th Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM 7:30 pm

May 19th Myrrh-bearing Women 1-year Memorial Robert Dardaris

June 2nd Semi-annual Paish Meeting (originally scheduled for March 17th)

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, Virginia, Steven Cosmo (2 yrs.), Peter Melnik (4 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 married Jason Xhoxhi & Eleanor Kauffman, Newly Illuminated Anita Ana Le Fevre, her sponsors: Janice Leyden and David Brook, Reader Chris Manosis, Rosalyn Rawls, Virginia Rubis, 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*

Nick Naum Scholarship Applications: The application is posted on our website <https://stjcaoc.org/nick-naum-scholarship/> The applications must be submitted by Wednesday, June 12, 2024 via email to <mailto:chairperson@stjcaoc.org> Do not send the application via regular mail (USPS). Recipients will be notified by Sunday, June 30, 2024. The date for the presentation of the scholarship will be announced. The following are members of the Nick Naum Scholarship Committee: Diane Coraluzzi, Carolyn Dardaris, Sandi Fiss, Stephanie Kosta, Nicole Ferrara, Reem Tarazi.

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.

Monthly Giving for May: Your Pascha Donation

Commemoration of Great and Holy Friday on this day we commemorate the sufferings of Christ: the mockery, the crown of thorns, the scourging, the nails, the thirst, the vinegar and gall, the cry of desolation, and all the Savior endured on the Cross. The day of Christ's death is the day of sin. The sin which polluted God's creation from the breaking dawn of time reached its frightful climax on the hill of Golgotha. There, sin and evil, destruction and death came into their own. Ungodly men had Him nailed to the Cross, in order to destroy Him. However, His death condemned irrevocably the fallen world by revealing its true and abnormal nature.



Great and Holy Saturday our focus is on the Tomb of Christ. This is no ordinary grave. It is not a place of corruption, decay and defeat. It is life-giving, a source of power, victory and liberation. Great Saturday is the day between Jesus' death and His resurrection. It is the day of watchful expectation, in which mourning is being transformed into joy. The day embodies in the fullest possible sense the meaning of xarmolipi - joyful-sadness, which has dominated the celebrations of Great Week. The hymnographer of the Church has penetrated the profound mystery, and helps us to understand it through the following poetic dialogue that he has devised between Jesus and His Mother:



On the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, Orthodox Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast of feasts is the most significant day in the life of the Church. It is a celebration of the defeat of death, as neither death itself nor the power of the grave could hold our Savior captive. In this victory that came through the Cross, Christ broke the bondage of sin, and through faith offers us restoration, transformation, and eternal life.

Belated Thank you to Linda Kosta for donating the flowers and making the beautiful arrangement for the Veneration of the Holy Cross on April 7th – So very Appreciated!

Thank you to our Pancake Breakfast Cooks/ Kitchen Crew: Steve Coraluzzi, Bob Fiss, Mike Leyden, Kevin Fiss, Tom Moore, for preparing the Palm Sunday Pancake breakfast. The Pancakes were delicious!

We need Coffee Hour Sponsors June, July and August. Please sponsor a coffee with your family or friends: sign-up on the sheet or click this link [CoffeeHourSignup](#)

May 5th PASCHA no coffee hour

May 12th Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of Steven

May 19th Dardaris Family in memory of Bob

June 2nd No Sponsor

June 16th No Sponsor

May 26th Hot Dog Sale

June 9th No Sponsor

June 23rd Friends of Deacon Steve Stefani

April NAMEDAYS: Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar! Lazarus Saturday - St. Lazarus, Palm Sunday – Kyriako, April 13– St. Martin the Confessor, Sunday after Pascha– St. Thomas, April 23 - Great Martyr George, April 25 - Apostle & Evangelist Mark