

The Weekly Messenger – March 23, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: Hebrews 4:4-16, 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Next Week Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Upcoming Events:

March 23rd Veneration of the Cross *Semi-annual meeting during coffee hour*

Monday, March 24th **Vespertal Liturgy - Annunciation @ 6:00 pm**

Tuesday, March 25th Annunciation

March 30th St. John Climacus **April 6th** St Mary of Egypt 3 yr. Memorial Dorothy Tomassini

Saturday April 12th Lazarus Saturday 10:00 am Divine Liturgy & Sunday school retreat

April 13th Palm Sunday The Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem – coffee hour -Pancake Breakfast

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, April 16th Great & Holy Wednesday Holy Unction 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 17th Great & Holy Thursday 12 Gospels 6:30 pm

Friday, April 18th Great & Holy Friday **10:00 am** decorate Epitaphios, **5:00pm** Taking down from the Cross **7:00 pm** Lamentations

Saturday, April 19th Great & Holy Saturday **11:00 am** 1st Resurrection Liturgy **11:30 pm**

Nocturnes, Matins Paschal Liturgy

April 20th Agape Vespers 1:00 pm

April 27th St Thomas Sunday

May 4th Myrrh-bearing Women

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania, Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims of the war in the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Barbara Barry, Dorothy Tomassini (3 yrs.), Jorgaq Lico (4 yrs.), Diane Mallios (4 yrs.), Annie Dimitri (10 yrs.), Gregory Costa (17 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

Commemorations for the Living: His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim Archpriest Matthew Tate, the people affected by the war in the Middle East, the people in Ukraine, Hieromonk Danaks (Father Dennis), Ellen Mondlak, Michele Holl, Nancy, Marjorie, Lee Constantine Elia, Teri Douris, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Virginia Daka, Dhimitri Ndrecka, 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*

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.

March Giving – Bottle Water



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.

LAZARUS SATURDAY RETREAT for children and adults April 12th the Divine Liturgy will begin @ 10:00. Father Kai will conduct the Liturgy on the Solea and explain what he is doing during the Liturgy. It is most informative. If you and your children would like to participate in the Lazarus Saturday retreat please email info@stjcaoc.org We will make Meshe, do some crafting and have pizza for lunch. All Welcome!

Presanctified 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 Wednesday, March 26 April 2, 9,** It is a beautiful service !.

Coffee Hour: The 2025 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Please pick a date! Or go online to pick a date by clicking [COFFEEHOUR](#)

March 23rd Martin Qyra & Jovana Vasili

March 30th Bendo & Fiss Families

April 6th Coraluzzi/Spiro Families in Memory of Dorthy Tomassini

April 13th Pancake Breakfast **April 20th** Pascha – No Coffee Hour **April 27th NO SPONSOR**

Red Egg Dye is available at the candle stand. It is \$4.00 per pack.

If you have news for the Weekly Messenger, please send it to info@stjcaoc.org