

The Weekly Messenger – March 9, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-10 (40 Martyrs) Gospel: John 1:43-51

Next Week Hebrews 10:10-14; 2:1-3 Epistle: Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm

March 9th Sunday of Orthodoxy/Blessing Family Icons **March 16th** St. Gregory Palamas

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

Monday, March 24th Matins & Liturgy @ 6:00 pm

Tuesday, March 25th Annunciation

March 30th St. John Climacus

April 6th St Mary of Egypt

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

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

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, Paula Kosta (8 yrs.), Ernie Douris (10 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*

Coffee Hour: We are looking for sponsors for March 2025 Please pick a date!

March 9th Parish Council **March 16th** Barbara Blum

March 23rd NO Sponsor March 30th NO Sponsor April 6th NO Sponsor

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 Giving – Bottle Water

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 12 19, 26 April 2, 9,*** It is a beautiful service and we ask you and your families attend. We had 8 people attend our first Presanctified Liturgy on March 3, 2025.

Semi Annual Parish Meeting: March 23, 2025 during coffee hour. Parish business to be discussed: Upcoming OCA All American Council in Phoenix AZ July 14-18, Building update, Church Finances, Social Activities, selection of delegates for Archdiocesan Assembly September 25-27, 2025 at St. Thomas, Farmington Hill, MI. The minutes from the semi-annual meeting held October 20, 2024 will be emailed next week.

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.

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