

The Weekly Messenger – April 20, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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This Week Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Next Week Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

April 20th Agape Vespers 1:00 pm

April 27th St Thomas Sunday Memorial +Ana Stergjo and 2 yr Memorial +Robert Dardaris

May 4th Myrrh-bearing Women 3- year Memorial +Steve Cosmo

May 11th Sunday of the Paralytic 5 -year Memorial +Peter Melnik

May 18th Sunday of the Samaritan Woman 40-day Memorial +Thimi Pappas

May 25th Sunday of the Blind Man **June 1st** Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

June 8th Holy Pentecost

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, Thimi Pappas, Ana Stergjo, Lluka Thodhori (5 yrs.), Brent Ledford (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, Newborn Theodore Andreas Kasapi, Denis & Elise Kasapi, Betty Subashi, Ellen Mondlak, Michele Holl, Nancy, 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: The 2025 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule. Sponsors needed for June 1st, 15, 22, ALL OF JULY most of August and September. [COFFEEHOUR](https://stjcaoc.org/nick-naum-scholarship/)

April 20th Pascha – No Coffee Hour

April 27th Kolovani & Xhoxhi families in memory of +Ana Stergjo

May 4th Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of +Steven Cosmo

May 11th Melnik Family in memory of +Peter Melnik

May 18th Pappas Family in memory of +Thimi

May 25th Koco & Mimoza Priftanji

Nick Naum Scholarship Applications: The application is posted on our website <https://stjcaoc.org/nick-naum-scholarship/> The applications must be submitted by Sunday, June 8th 2025 via email to chairperson@stjcaoc.org Recipients will be notified by June 22, 2025. The recipients will be presented with their award on Sunday, July 13, 2025. The following are members of the Nick Naum Scholarship Committee: Diane Coraluzzi, Carolyn Dardaris, Sandi Fiss, Michele Coraluzzi, Caroline Fiss, Michelle Dardaris, Kevin Fiss,

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 March 23rd – So very Appreciated!

Thank you to our Pancake Breakfast Cooks/ Kitchen Crew: Steve Coraluzzi, Bob Fiss, Joe Matozzo, Mike Leyden, Kevin Fiss, Tom Moore, Elias Mondlak, Athanasios Mondlak, Ariana Mondlak, Linda Biando for preparing the Palm Sunday Pancake breakfast. We had about 100 people attend the Palm Sunday Liturgy and the Pancakes were delicious!



Pascha Donations: Many thanks to those who have made a Pascha donation to St. John Chrysostom. If you sent a check via the US Mail please look at your bank account to make sure the check has cleared. Although our mail delivery has improved we still go days without receiving any mail. THANK YOU!

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
KRISHTI U NGJALL! VERTET U NGJALL!

April Giving – Bottle Water – Any Size