

The Weekly Messenger – April 27, 2025
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: info@stjcaoc.org
This Week Epistle: Acts 5:12-20 Gospel: John 20:19-31
Next Week Epistle: Acts 6:1-7 Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

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

Upcoming Events:

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

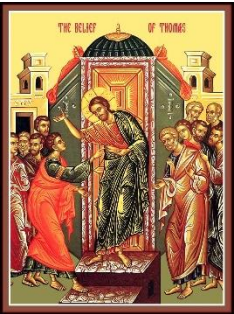
Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania, Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, the victims of the war in the Middle East, the victims in Ukraine, Thimi Pappas, Ana Stergjo, Robert Dardaris (2 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](#)

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
June 1st NO SPONSOR	June 8th Linda Kosta in honor of Olivia’ graduation
June 15th NO SPONSOR	June 22nd NO SPONSOR
June 29th Peter Steffa in honor of his Nameday	July 6th NO SPONSOR

April Giving – Bottle Water – Any Size



Saint Thomas Sunday: Antipascha Every day during the week of Easter, called Bright Week by the Church, the paschal services are celebrated in all their splendor. The Easter baptismal procession is repeated daily. The royal gates of the sanctuary remain open. The joy of the Resurrection and the gift of the Kingdom of eternal life continue to abound. Then, at the end of the week, on Saturday evening, the second Sunday after Easter is celebrated in remembrance of the appearance of Christ to the Apostle Thomas “after eight days” (Jn 20.26). The Sunday after Easter, called the Second Sunday, is thus the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week. It is therefore called the

Antipascha, and it was only on this day in the early church that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world. Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Savior wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus, he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29). This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

Thank you to Father Kai for his energy and enthusiasm during Holy Week it was contagious! Thank you to all who helped decorate the Epitaphion last Friday and those who helped with the services, disbursing flowers, carrying the Epitaphion, Banners, reading, singing and attending the numerous services. We are blessed to have such a giving church family. It was a very beautiful week. A big thank you to Margarita Sevi and Alfred Coni for donating the flowers for the Epitaphion, it looked magnificent! It was a so nice to see our church filled with parishioners and friends!



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.