

The Weekly Messenger – April 5, 2015
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18

Lazarus Saturday: On the Saturday before Holy Week, the Orthodox Church commemorates a major feast of the year, the miracle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when he raised Lazarus from the dead after he had lain in the grave four days. Here, at the end of Great Lent and the forty days of fasting and penitence, the Church combines this celebration with that of Palm Sunday. In triumph and joy the Church bears witness to the power of Christ over death and exalts Him as King before entering the most solemn week of the year, one that leads the faithful in remembrance of His suffering and death and concludes with the great and glorious Feast of Pascha.

http://lent.goarch.org/saturday_of_lazarus/learn/

Palm Sunday: On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.

http://lent.goarch.org/palm_sunday/learn/

Commemorations for the Living: Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Deacon Michael Sochka, Tranette, Judy Valliere, Jennie Sapnas, Peter Melnik, Semele Halkedis, Peter Mallios, Elaine Quirias, George Robos, Wayne Merkle, Sophie, Clive & Dhimitri Miller, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Leslie Sochka, Andigoni Steffa, Mary Croke, Candace Pepenelli, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

Commemorations for the Departed: Father Thomas Hopko, Qiriako Adams, Florence Vissar, Ann Dimitri, Ernie Douris, Nancy Gregory, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Friday, April 10, 2015 10:00 am: Helpers needed to decorate the Epitaphios. Many hands make light work! Please email chairperson@stjohnsphila.org if you are able to help.

February 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

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Thank you very much!

April 5th Rose Adams and Family in memory of Charlie – Pancake Breakfast

April 19th Jani Mara 3 year memorial of Anastas Mara,

Dimitri-Cosmo Family in memory of Tom Dimitri

April 26th Fioralba & Ilirjan Papa in celebration of Elisabeth's first birthday & Name Day

May 3rd **no sponsor**

May 10th Sergio & Colleen Xhoxhi

We have many open dates May – December.

Upcoming Events:

April 5th Palm Sunday, Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem- Blessing of the Palms

Tuesday, April 7th Holy Tuesday - Bridegroom Matins 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 8th Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 9th Holy Thursday - 12 Gospels 6:30 pm

Friday, April 10th, Holy Friday – 10 am Decorate the Epitaphios,

5 pm Vespers (Taking Down From Cross), 7 pm Funeral

Saturday, April 11th Saturday – **9:00 am** Liturgy **11:00pm** Matins/Nocturn/Pascha

Sunday, April 12th Paschal Agape Vespers - 1:00 pm - no coffee hour after Vespers

Reader Schedule: April 5th Reader Mark, April 19th Adam Coraluzzi, April 26th Kevin Fiss, May 3rd Edward Kokalari, May 10th Michelle Dardaris, May 17th Reader Mark, May 24th Adam Coraluzzi

Home Blessing/Visitation: If you would like Father Brooks to visit and bless your home please contact him: 210-461-1956 or email fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org A sign-up sheet is also posted in the side vestibule.

Buddy Walk - Sunday, May 17, 2015: Our own altar server, John Melnik –

Team Brother John looks forward to another great Buddy Walk this year. Please come out to do the walk, have some fun and picnic with us under the Brother John tent. We are always looking for new faces to join us as we celebrate together. If you are unable to attend the walk but would like to donate to this very worthy organization please click:

<http://secure.dsadelaware.org/BuddyWalk/BuddiesAndTeams/Team.aspx?TeamID=652>

If you have any questions contact Susan or Vlad Melnik. Thank you for your support.

April Giving: Olive Oil - thank you for the toilet paper donations in March.