

The Weekly Messenger – March 5, 2017
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40 *Gospel: John 1:43-51*

Sunday of Orthodoxy: Since 843 the Church has designated the first Sunday of Lent as Sunday of Orthodoxy. Specifically, we celebrate the restoration of Icons by the Empress Theodora. Generally, we commemorate: 1) The victory of Orthodoxy-right worship, over heresy-false worship. 2) The victory of light over darkness and 3) The victory of truth over falsehood. The battle of truth over falsehood still rages. Orthodox Christians should be in the forefront of this battle. Falsehood, darkness and evil are not neutral, they are always at work, always attempting to destroy and distort the truth.

<https://www.goarch.org/-/sunday-of-orthodoxy>

Parishioner News: Brittany Ghicondey recently celebrated her achievement, graduating in December 2016 from Villanova University with her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, including Minor Certificates in Bioengineering and Engineering Entrepreneurship. Brittany is the daughter of Peter and Nancy Ghicondey, sister to Christina Ghicondey, granddaughter of Jim and Roxane Ghicondey, goddaughter of Steven Ghicondes, and niece of John Ghicondes. Congratulations Brittany!

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: *Wednesday Evenings March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5th* Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ 7:00 pm. Followed by potluck dinner and discussion.

Commemorations for the Living: Olivia Lorimer, Paul Dimitri, Thomas Anderson, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Zoidis, John Kolea, Jr., William Spiro, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Kim Burdumy, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Commemorations for the Departed: Andigoni Steffa, Bajame (Josef's Mother -1 year), Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

March giving: single ply toilet tissue Thank you to those who donated napkins last month

The Rite of Forgiveness at the end of last Sunday's Divine Liturgy was amazing. We all formed a line and asked each other forgiveness in order to begin Great Lent properly. It is a very moving and powerful ritual which has meaning beyond what we can even imagine. We continue into Great Lent in the spirit of Christ, not paying attention to the sins of our brothers and sisters, but focusing on our own spiritual lives. Many blessings!

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Please take a look at the sign-up sheet and pick a date!!!

March 5th Pandora Bendo

March 12th OPEN DATE – NO SPONSOR

March 19th Sunday school

March 26th Sergio & Colleen Xhoxhi

April 2nd Mallios Family – 1 year memorial Peter

April 9th Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Adams Family

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday March 7th Parish Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm

March 19th Veneration of the Cross and Semi-annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour

March 23rd Charity & Benevolence Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 25th Annunciation Divine Liturgy 10:00 am /YAL meeting @ 7:00 pm

Saturday April 8th Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am followed by Lazarus Saturday Retreat

April 9th Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem- Blessing of the Palms– Rose Adams and her family sponsor the Pancake Breakfast in Memory of Charlie

Tuesday, April 11th Holy Tuesday - Bridegroom Matins 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 12th Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 13th Holy Thursday - 12 Gospels 7:00 pm

Friday, April 14th, Holy Friday – 10 am Decorate the Epitaph ion,
5 pm Vespers (Taking Down From Cross), 7:00 pm Funeral

Saturday, April 15th Saturday - Liturgy 9:00 am, Matins/Nocturne/Liturgy beginning 11 pm

Sunday, April 16th Paschal Agape Vespers - 1:00 pm - no coffee hour after Vespers

March Namedays Per **Shume Vjet! Gezuar!** To our parishioners who celebrate their Nameday in March: 10th St. Theodore the General, 17th St. Alexander, 25th The Annunciation

Semi Annual Parish Meeting: March 19, 2017 during coffee hour. Parish business to be discussed: Religious Education, Church Finances, Social Activities, selection of delegates for Archdiocesan Assembly Sept. 21 - 23, 2017. This year the Assembly will be hosted by our parish!

Best Wishes to Vitale, Gabriela Dedkov and their daughter Emilja - they are moving to Seattle in the next few weeks. We enjoyed having you as a part of our church family. We will miss you! Many years!! (Remember to visit when you are in the area)