

The Weekly Messenger – April 29, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Acts 9:32-42 *Gospel: John 5:1-15*

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

The fourth Sunday of Holy Pascha Jesus healed the Paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, located near the Sheep's Gate of Jerusalem, where people sacrificed their beasts and washed their insides. The pool had five sides, with a porch and arch on each. A number of people, afflicted with various diseases, passed through them, waiting at the water for an angel to come down and stir it. Once it moved, whoever stepped into the water first was instantly healed. One poor man, whose story is recounted in today's Gospel lection in the Divine Liturgy, waited 38 years for someone to lower him into the water, because he was unable to move into the water himself. However, the Savior merely commanded the man to get up and walk, and he was healed.

http://www.antiochian.org/paralytic_sunday

One wonders sometimes about why the Gospel story of the healing of the paralytic was chosen for the Paschal season. One understands why the stories of Thomas and the Myrrh-bearers were chosen, but the paralytic? Perhaps our incomprehension is rooted in our modern separation of Pascha from baptism. In the early Church from at least the time of Tertullian (d. 220), Pascha was considered as *the* time for baptism, and the spectacle of many catechumens lining up to be baptized in the baptistery (a separate building in those days) and then processing with solemn joy into the church to be anointed with laying on of hands by the bishop forged an indelible link in people's minds between Pascha and baptism. Even now in our Pascha-night Liturgy, in place of the Trisagion hymn we sing "As many as have been baptized into Christ." In early tradition, Pascha meant baptism and baptism always had a paschal feel to it. The two were inextricably linked.

Read more: <https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-lawrence-farley/the-paralytic-and-the-pool>

Our Sincere Thanks to our Parishioners and Friends who generously made donations to St. John's in honor of Pascha! Through April 15th we have received \$4,525.00. Again, Many Thanks!!

Commemorations for the Deported: Jennie Sapnas, Jorgjia Kashari (2 yrs.), Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Commemorations for the Living: Joseph Urquhart, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Betty Subashi, Brenda Cantwell, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Craig Risley, Wayne Merkle, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Upcoming Events:

May 13th 1-year memorial Elida Xhoxhi

Tuesday, May 15th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday May 16th 7:00 pm Feast of the Ascension - Vesperal Liturgy

Saturday May 19th Buddy Walk with the Melnik Family

May 27th Pentecost

May 28th Memorial Day – Father Brooks will bless the graves at Fernwood and other Cemeteries upon request

June 10th Sunday school graduation

Coffee Hour Sponsors: *Please check the sign-up sheet in the vestibule and pick a date or visit our website and signup online: <https://teamup.com/ksqta3sqv6k1qvr2o7>*

April 29th Fiori & Illirjan Papa in honor of Elisabeth's birthday & Nameday

May 6th Marjana Kokalari

May 13th Elena & Eduard Papa Teresa's 1st Birthday & Dhimitraq Xhoxhi & Family in memory of Elida

May 20th NO SPONSOR

May 27th NO SPONSOR

Please send information about the graduates in your family, College, High School, 8th Grade. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. Please send an email to info@stjohnsphila.org Include the name of the graduate and the school from which they graduated. For 8th grade let us know what high school they will be attending next year, HS grads if they are attending college, the name of the college, or what they will be pursuing. College graduates, their degree and plans for the future. We would also like the proud parents and grandparents' names. Thank-you!

Welcome to our visitors. Father Brooks, 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.