

**The Weekly Messenger – March 4, 2018**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14, 2:1-3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12*

**2nd Sunday of Great Lent: St Gregory Palamas** This Sunday was originally dedicated to Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (February 23). After his glorification in 1368, a second commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas (November 14) was appointed for the Second Sunday of Great Lent as a second “Triumph of Orthodoxy.”

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. Saint Gregory’s father became a prominent dignitary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work. But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder Saint Nicodemus of Vatopedi (July 11). There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection.

Gregory’s mother and sisters also became monastics. Read more:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/03/04/12-2nd-sunday-of-great-lent-st-gregory-palamas>

**Semi Annual Parish Meeting:** March 18, 2018 during coffee hour. Parish business to be discussed: Building update, Church Finances, Social Activities, selection of delegates for Archdiocesan Assembly July 23 – 27, 2018 in St. Louis, MO. The Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly will be held in conjunction with the OCA All American Council. <https://oca.org/history-archives/aacs/the-19th-all-american-council>

**Parishioner News:** Congratulations to Costina Bacuta on her engagement to Michael Morrison. Costina is the daughter of Constantin & Cristina Bacuta and sister of Florina. Costina and Mike plan to be married at St. John Chrysostom on August 19, 2018 with future step-daughters, Quinn and Madison Morrison offering their support as they begin their new life as husband and wife. Many Years to the new family!

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts:** *Wednesday Evenings March 7, 14, 21, 28,* Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ 7:00 pm. Followed by potluck dinner and discussion.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Pandora Bendo, George Notskas (30 years), John Gulowacz, Katherine Halkedis, Pandora Bendo, Susan Thomas, Steven DiStefano, Larry Jance, Kashari, 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:** Father Dimitrie Vincent, 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.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** *Please check the sign-up sheet in the vestibule and pick a date!*

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** Spiro & Marjana Kosta in memory of Victoria

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** Bendo/Fiss Families in memory of Pandora

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** Petraq Xoxe

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** Vissar Family in memory of Flossie

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** Jerry & Laura Hall

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** Annual Pancake Breakfast

**Upcoming Events:**

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** 40 Day Memorial for Pandora Bendo

**WEDNESDAY March 7<sup>th</sup> Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** Outreach Meeting 7:00 pm

**March 11<sup>th</sup> Veneration of the Holy Cross** Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** 3 Yr Memorial Flossie Vissar/Semi-annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour

**March 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUNCIATION**

Annual Sunday school ice skating 1:00-2:30 pm at the University of Penn Rink - Always a fun time! SAVE THE DATE!

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** Divine Liturgy followed by the Sunday School Lazarus Saturday Retreat 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Holy Tuesday - Bridegroom Matins 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction 7:00 pm

**Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** Holy Thursday - 12 Gospels 7:00 pm

**Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** Holy Friday – 10:00 am Decorate the Epitaph ion,

5:00 pm Vespers (Taking Down from Cross), 7:00 pm Funeral

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** Saturday - Liturgy 9:00 am, Matins/Nocturne/Liturgy beginning 11:00 pm

**Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** 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: 10<sup>th</sup> St. Theodore the General, 17<sup>th</sup> St. Alexander, 25<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation