

The Weekly Messenger –April 7, 2019
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 8:17-31

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt 10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against . . . the rulers of the present darkness . . . the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places . . ." (Eph 6.12). St John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt 24.13).

Pre-sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday nights @ 7:00pm, Lenten (Pot Luck) dinner and discussion will be held in the church hall following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy.

Upcoming Events:

April 6th Baptism of Ergesa Kosova, daughter of George & Ermelinda
Monday April 8th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm
April 14th YAL meeting Florina & Drew's house 4:00 pm
April 20th **Lazarus Saturday** Liturgy @ 10:00 followed by Sunday school retreat
April 21st Palm Sunday - annual Pancake Breakfast
HOLY WEEK April 24-28
Holy Wednesday: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (7:00)
Holy Thursday: Reading of the 12 Gospels (7:00)
Holy Friday: Royal Hours (10:00 a.m.); Funeral (Lamentations) 7:00).
Holy Saturday: Baptismal Liturgy (10:00 a.m.) Amy Lewis
Pascha (Saturday evening) - Nocturn, Matins, Liturgy, beginning 11:30 p.m.
Chrismation of Zach Smith
Agape Vespers: Sunday (1:00 p.m.)
Monday, April 29th Charity & Benevolence Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
May 18th Buddy Walk – the Melnik Family *more info to follow*

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.

Commemorations for the Departed: Drita Llupi (2 yrs.), Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email info@stjohnsphila.org*

Commemorations for the Living: Archbishop Nikon, Lee Bortner, Marion Merkle, Tala Ayyad, Diane Mallios, Rose Adams, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces

We celebrated the *Veneration of the Holy Cross* last Sunday. Many thanks to Linda Kosta for donating the flowers and for arranging them so beautifully around the most Holy Cross. Our Sunday school students did a wonderful job processing around the church!



Our sincere thanks to Qirjako Kosova, (son of Marsel & Natasha and brother of George Kosova), for writing and gifting this beautiful Icon of Saint Nicholas to our parish. The Icon will be displayed in the sanctuary. You can see other Icons written by Qirjako's - visit his website: <https://qirjakokosova.weebly.com/>

Nick Naum Scholarship Applications: are being accepted. The applications must be submitted by June 1, 2019. Information is available on our website <http://www.stjohnsphila.org> or by emailing nnscholarship@stjohnsphila.org or see a member of the Nick Naum Scholarship committee in church: Diane Coraluzzi, Carolyn Dardaris, Sandi Fiss, Stephanie Kosta, Nicole Ferrara, Reem Tarazi

Coffee Hour Sponsors:

April 7th Loreta & Argen Llupi in memory of Drita Llupi
April 14th Pappas/Ferrara Families
April 21st Annual Pancake Breakfast
April 28th PASCHA no coffee hour
May 5th 12th, No Sponsor May 19th Elena & Zach, **May 26th** No Sponsor

April 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

April giving: Dyed Red Eggs and Your Pascha Donation