

Please complete the information below and provide it to the priest.

Name of the person to be remembered:

Date requested for service:

Anniversary of commemoration:

40 Day

One Year

Other (please specify):

Sponsor(s) of Memorial:

Relationship to the departed:

Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail Address:



St. John Chrysostom

Albanian Orthodox Church

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

*Remembering your loved ones in
Church*



*"I am the Resurrection and the Life;
he who believes in me, though he
dies, yet shall he live."*

In the Liturgy of St. Basil, the service celebrated on Sundays during Great Lent, the Church states its belief regarding that which occurs after this life: “Descending through the Cross into Hades—that He [Christ] might fill all things with Himself—He loosed the pangs of death.” We truly believe and confirm that the realm of our God’s power is not bound by time or by death. As witnesses to this fact, we continue the ancient practice of praying for the dead. We gather as a community to remember not those whom we have loved but those we continue to love.

With our hymns and prayers we strengthen and reaffirm the place of the departed in our community. As part of the memorial service, we also bless the grure or kolyva, a sweet dish of boiled wheat. This is to remind ourselves that, in the words of Christ, “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24). The joy of paradise, in which we will at last meet the full embrace of God, is anticipated in the dish’s sweetness. After the blessing, this is shared among all those present; we eat this together as a family.

These prayers are intended to be offered regularly, and it is common to schedule them on the fortieth day after death and yearly thereafter. This cycle provides us time to grieve what is our loss while learning to celebrate what is the great treasure of those who have gone before us: their memory.



For the memorial service and all prayers and services of the Church, there is no fee or charge. Many individuals and families, however, wish to commemorate and honor their departed loved ones by providing a memorial meal for the congregation. This may take many forms from simply sharing the grure at coffee hour to an elaborate feast. Because of the necessary preparation and cleaning involved in such meals, the parish suggests donations of differing degrees to defray the cost of this work. Whatever your preferences and means, though, do not hesitate to ask the priest for assistance.

Though it is not traditional, St. John Chrysostom Church customarily holds memorial services after Holy Liturgy on Sundays. If you would prefer to make these prayers on Saturday evening or at another time, please ask the priest.