

**The Weekly Messenger –April 7, 2013**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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**Gospel - Mark 8:34-9:1 Epistle – Hebrews 4:14-5:6**

*If you would like to have someone remembered in prayer or in need of a priest please contact Donna Dimitri, Parish Council Chair, [chairperson@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:chairperson@stjohnsphila.org) or 609-685-1651.*

**Commemorations for the Living:** Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Cranford, Kristin Snow, Madeline Couris-Guarinello, Jennie Sapanas, Dhimitri Ndrecka, Mary Legidakes, Francesca Giansante, Pandeli Spiro, Rosemary Notskas, Peter Mallios, Katherine Zoidis, Marcena Moore, Flossie Vissar, Kathleen, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all the servicemen especially, Matthew Sherwood (Army–Afghanistan), Steven Cosmo (Marines-Romania), Dylan Colclough (Marines-Okinawa).

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Nick Naum, Anastas Mara, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Nick Naum** fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, March 31, 2013. Nick was a long time member of St. John Chrysostom. He was responsible for the Albanian Heritage Museum in the Sunday school and assisted in the creation of the Gregory E. Costa Golf Outing. Nick made many wonderful contributions to our parish. May his memory be eternal!

**Pastoral Coverage:**

Father Joe Toroney will serve today, April 7<sup>th</sup> (Father Joe will return in May)  
April 14 & 21, Father Mark Koczak,  
April 27, April 28, Holy Week & Pascha (May 5<sup>th</sup>) Father Brooks Ledford

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** April 7<sup>th</sup> Thank you to Jani Mara & family who sponsored coffee hour in memory of Anastas Mara (Jani's Father)

April 14<sup>th</sup> Mike & Carolyn Dardaris  
April 21<sup>st</sup> Dorothy Tomassini & Jim Spiro  
April 28<sup>th</sup> Adams Family, Charlie Adams Pancake Breakfast  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Parish Council will sponsor refreshments after the 11:00 pm Paschal Liturgy  
May 12<sup>th</sup> Michele Anderson & Bill Whitney in memory of Ed & Cathy Anderson

Open coffee hour dates: May 26, June 2, 16, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please sign up!

**Veneration of the Cross:** Veneration of the Cross: The Holy Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church has always attributed great significance to the veneration of our Lord's cross. The actual uncovering of the precious cross by the Saint & Empress Helen, the mother of the Saint & Emperor Constantine and the one who secretly raised him in the faith, is remembered on March 6<sup>th</sup> every year. The cross had been thrown into the garbage heap outside of Jerusalem but basil grew all around it. The date for the September 14<sup>th</sup> feast was determined by the day of the Consecration of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Finally, because of the miracles and piety surrounding the Cross, it was determined to set aside a Sunday in the midst of Great Lenten journey to remind ourselves that the suffering of the Cross leads to the joy of the Resurrection.

*Written by Deacon Andrew Rubis*

**Important Dates:** April 7<sup>th</sup> Veneration of the Cross  
April 14<sup>th</sup> St. John of Ladder  
April 21<sup>st</sup> St. Mary of Egypt, One Year Memorial Vada Burdumy  
**Saturday** April 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday school Lazarus Retreat  
April 28<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday, Charlie Adams Pancake Breakfast  
May 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Unction 7:00 pm followed by a meeting with Father Brooks  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Passion 7:00 pm  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> 3 pm Vespers 7pm Lamentations  
May 4<sup>th</sup> 10 am Liturgy of St Basil Holy Pascha 11:00 pm Liturgy  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Agape Vespers 1 pm

**Pledge Update:** A few pledge cards arrive each week. Have you sent yours? If you cannot find your pledge card they are available at the candle stand and online [www.stjohnsphila.org](http://www.stjohnsphila.org). In 2012 we had 126 pledges. Our goal for 2013 is 140 pledges. Please send your pledge card now!

**Sunday School News:** Our Sunday school director and teachers are preparing for the Lazarus Saturday retreat, April 27, 2013, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. We need to know how many children plan to attend so we can purchase the appropriate number of crafts and have enough supplies to make Meshe! That's right, **the children will be making Meshe** to bring home and share with their family. We also need adults to help. Please contact Sunday School director, Steve Coraluzzi at [sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org) and let him know you will be attending.

**Parish Council Meeting:** April 8, 2013 @ 7:00 pm. All invited to attend

**Thank you** Father Joe and Prifteresha Kathy for serving at St. John for the past several weeks. We look forward to seeing you again in May!