

**The Weekly Messenger –April 20, 2014**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-18    Gospel: John 1:1-17*

## **Holy Week**

**Holy Unction:** the Sacrament or Mystery of Holy Unction is conducted in Orthodox parishes. The Sacrament of Holy Unction is offered for the healing of soul and body and for forgiveness of sins. At the conclusion of the service of the Sacrament, the body is anointed with oil, and the grace of God, which heals infirmities of soul and body, is called down upon each person.

**Holy Thursday:** four events are commemorated: the washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the agony in the garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas. *April 17, 6:30 pm*

**Holy Friday:** the Orthodox Church commemorates the death of Christ on the Cross. This is the culmination of the observance of His Passion by which our Lord suffered and died for our sins. This commemoration begins on Thursday evening with the Matins of Holy Friday and concludes with a Vespers on Friday afternoon that observes the unnauling of Christ from the Cross and the placement of His body in the tomb.

*April 18, Vespers 5:00 pm & Lamentations 7:00 pm*

**Great Saturday:** the Church contemplates the mystery of the Lord's descent into Hades, the place of the dead. Death, our ultimate enemy, is defeated from within. "He (Christ) gave Himself as a ransom to death in which we were held captive, sold under sin. Descending into Hades through the Cross. He loosed the bonds of death"

*Liturgy of St. Basil April 19, 11:00 am*

**Great & Holy Pascha:** Orthodox Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast of feasts is the most significant day in the life of the Church. It is a celebration of the defeat of death, as neither death itself nor the power of the grave could hold our Savior captive. In this victory that came through the Cross, Christ broke the bondage of sin, and through faith offers us restoration, transformation, and eternal life. *April 19, 11:00 pm Nocturnes & Matins followed by 12:00am (midnight) Divine Liturgy - Sunday, April 20, Agape Vespers 1:00 pm*

Above information taken from (<http://lent.goarch.org/learn>)

**Message from Father Brooks:** An early Krishti Ungjall! We know the end of this story, which is the triumph of Christ and, by extension, the triumph of all who follow him. I wish all of you a blessed Pascha. I will be going to Texas after Pascha to be with my family. Fr. Dn. Gregory Vrato will celebrate a Typica Service with communion on Thomas Sunday, and I am greatly appreciative to him for this. While I am away, I am easily available by my cell phone (210-461-1956) if needed. I look forward to seeing you when I return. God bless all of you, and the Peace of Christ to all!

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Proto Deacon Michael Sochka, Katherine Halkedis, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Hugh Ledford, Larry Kosta, Leslie Sochka, Dolly Spiro, Daniel Coraluzzi, Andigoni Steffa, John and Mary Croke, Paula Kosta, Candace Pepenelli, Mac, Kristin Snow, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Francesca Giansante, Flossie Vissar, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Metropolitan Philip (Antiochian Archdiocese), Lefteria Dhimitri, Thomas Dimitri, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Pastoral Coverage:** From Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> through Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Father Brooks will be in Texas with his family. Father Stephen Siniari, pastor at our sister parish, Ss. Peter & Paul, will be available for pastoral needs. Father Stephen can be reached at 609-385-3757. If you are unable to reach Father Stephen, contact Donna Dimitri, 609-685-1651.

**Thank you** to the many parishioners and friends who have sent in Pascha donations.

**Web site:** Be sure to visit <http://www.stjohnsphila.org/> A great deal of information about Pascha is posted along with many new photographs. Thank you to Tish Klus and Peter Ghicondey for keeping the website current.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Thank you very much!

April 27<sup>th</sup> Nilda & Spartak Brahollari

May 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday school hot dog sale

May 11<sup>th</sup> Betty Subashi – in Memory of Andy

May 18<sup>th</sup> Betty Subashi, Tatjana Plesati – 40-Day memorial Lefteria Dhimitri

May 25<sup>th</sup> Looking for someone to sign up to sponsor this date

**April Giving:** Altar Wine - Manischewitz Concord Grape

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