



ST. NICHOLAS ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

SHRINE OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY

2701 NORTH NARRAGANSETT AVENUE • CHICAGO, IL 60639 • 773-889-4282
stnicholasalbanianchicago.org



Welcome!

Welcome to all worshipping here today with a special welcome to those who are visitors or newcomers.



June 2023

The miraculous Weeping Icon of the Blessed Virgin

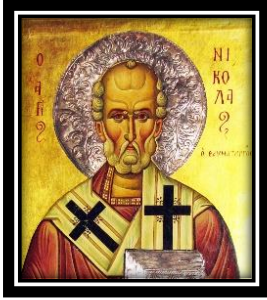
Welcome to St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in Chicago! Please join us on Sundays for Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Miresevini ne kishen Orthodokse te Shen Kollit ne Chicago! Ju lutemi beni te mundur pjesmarrjen tuaj cdo te Diele ne Liturgjine Hyjnore ne oren 10.00 a.m.

Our parish was founded in 1944 by Albanians from the southeastern part of the country, near the city of Korca. The current church building was built in 1961 and the beautiful interior is filled with wonderful icons, including the miraculous Icon of the Blessed Virgin.

Fr. Dean

We would like to inform you that Fr. Dean Photos will be serving as our priest for the time being. Fr. Dean will start Orthros at 9:00 AM, followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM on the days he is here. The updated schedule of services is on our Service Schedule Page. The Parish Council is working closely with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to bring an Albanian priest to St. Nicholas church.



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
Schedule of Services / Programi i Sherbesave

June / Qershor 2023

In-Person and Live Streamed Services

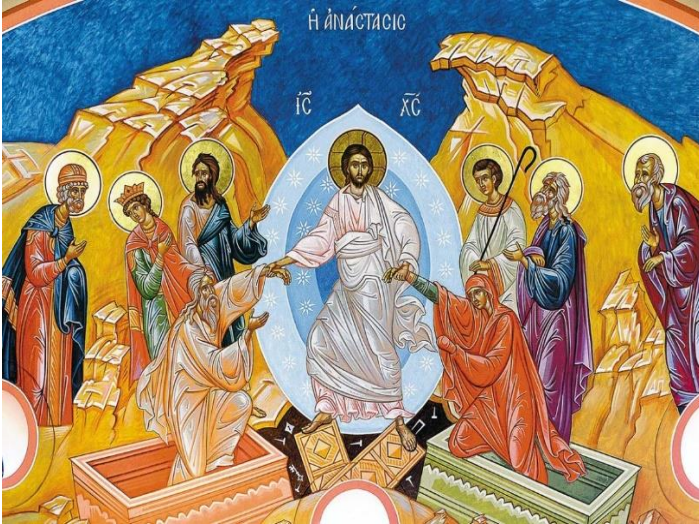
(LS Denotes Service Live Streamed on Facebook)

03	Saturday LS	Saturday of Souls <i>E Shtuna e Shpirtrave</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
04	Sunday LS	Holy Pentecost <i>Pentikostia (Pesedhjetarja) - Rrëshajet</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
11	Sunday LS	The Sunday of All Saints <i>E Diela e Gjithë Shenjtorëve</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
18	Sunday LS	2nd Sunday of Matthew <i>2 Mateut</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
25	Sunday LS	3rd Sunday of Matthew <i>3 Mateut</i>	TBD
30	Friday LS	Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles <i>Mbledhja per 12 Apostujt</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am





Ladies Auxiliary



The Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank everyone from our Church community for participating and supporting the Palm Sunday Luncheon, on April 09. Through your generous contribution, the Ladies Auxiliary were able to raise much needed funds, which will be donated to the IOCC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Relief Fund. A special thank you to all the ladies who volunteered their

time, effort and resources to make this event successful. We thank God for the gift of fellowship that we shared with each other. It was a blessing to see so many of our beloved members, coming together as brethren in Christ!

Also, we would like to express our gratitude to all the members of the Parish Council and of our community who volunteered during Pascha celebrations.

Thank you to the following valued members of our community for helping with Easter services: Endri Sulari, Argjir Shkira, Desar Shkira, Petrina Shkira, Gazmend Meni

Special thank you to our youth helping with the hall set up/ clean up: John Iskali, David Vasil, Brian Peshtani, Jorgo Meni, James Poni, Bleni Zabuni

Thank you and God Bless you all.





St. Nicholas Church Bus Trip

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

We are sorry to inform you that the chartered bus trip to visit the gravesite of Metropolitan Ilia has been canceled. For those who registered, your checks will be returned to you or you

will receive a refund check from the church.

Thank you all!



His Excellency Metropolitan Ilia was born in July 14th, 1937, in a family of Albanian immigrants who came in the United States in the early 20th century. The piety of his family, especially his father and an active participation in the life of the church would influence his decision to pursue the vocation of becoming an Orthodox priest.

After graduating from high school with honors, Ilia went to Boston to continue his studies at the Holy Cross School of Theology. Following graduation after six years of studies, he married Helen in 1962. They were blessed with two children. He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in 1962. Two weeks later he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Bishop Mark Lipa, in

Holy Trinity Church, South Boston, where he was assigned to serve as a priest. In 1983, he completed his post-graduate master's studies at Holy Cross School of Theology and was then appointed Dean of Student Affairs at Hellenic College Holy Cross. In 1988 he accepted the position of pastor at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he served until 2002. Upon the arrival of Archbishop Anastasios as Patriarchal Exarch in Albania, he served the Orthodox Church there during the years 1991-1992, and contributed tremendously in the restoration of the religious life and ecclesial order in Albania. particularly as the Director of the Theological School in Durres. where

he taught and mentored candidates for the priesthood.

In 2002, the widowed Fr. Ilia was unanimously elected titular Bishop of Philomelion by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and was appointed to lead the Albanian Orthodox Diocese in America. For his contribution to the Albanian Orthodox Diocese in America and to the Orthodoxy worldwide, the Ecumenical Patriarchate elevated him to the rank of Metropolitan in 2019.

During his 60 years of service to the faithful and his ministry in the church, our most beloved Metropolitan Ilia was revealed to be a truly dedicated shepherd to his flock and a luminous example of faith and wisdom. He will always be remembered for his warmth and as a loving father in Christ for all of us.

May his memory be eternal!

Shkëlqesia e tij Mitropolit Ilia u lind në 14 Korrik, 1937, në një familje emigrantësh Shqiptarë të cilët erdhën në Shtetet e Bashkuara në fillim të shekullit të 20. Familja e tij besimtare, veçanërisht i jati, dhe pjesëmarrja aktive në jetën e kishës, ndikuan vendimin e tij për të ndjekur rrugën e priftërisë. Pasi u diplomua me rezultate të larta nga shkolla e mesme, Ilia shkoi në Boston për të vazhduar studimet në Seminarin Teologjik Kryqi i Shenjtë. U diplomua pas gjashtë vjet studimesh dhe u martua me Helen në vitin 1962. Ata patën dy fëmijë së bashku. Po në vitin 1962 u hirotonis Dhjak në kishën Shqiptare të Shën Kollit në Çikago dhe me pas Prift në kishën e Shën Trinisë në Boston, ku edhe u caktua të shërbente si prift. Në 1983 ai mori një Master në Seminarin Teologjik Kryqi i Shenjtë dhe më pas u caktua Dekan i Kolegjit Helen. Në 1988 ai pranoi të shërbente si prift në kishën e Shën Gjon Pagëzorit në Las Vegas, Nevada, ku shërbeu deri në vitin 2002.

Me mbërritjen në Shqipëri të Kryepeshkop Anastasit si Ekzark i Patriarkanës Ekumenike, ai i shërbeu Kishës Ortodokse atje gjatë viteve 1991-1992, duke kontribuar jashtëzakonisht në ripërtëritjen e jetës fetare dhe rregullit kishtar në Shqipëri, veçanërisht si Drejtor i Seminarit Teologjik në Durrës, ku ai mësonte dhe drejtonte klerikët e ardhshëm.

Në vitin 2002, At. Ilia, tashmë i ve, u zgjodh unanimisht Episkop titullar i Filomilit nga Sinodi i Shenjtë i Patriarkanës Ekumenike dhe u caktua të udhëhiqte Dioqezën Ortodokse Shqiptare në Amerikë. Si vlerësim për kontributin ndaj Dioqezës Ortodokse Shqiptare në Amerikë dhe për Ortodoksinë më gjerë, Patriarkana Ekumenike e ngriti në rangun e Mitropolitit në vitin 2019.

Gjatë 60 viteve të shërbimit të tij ndaj besimtarëve dhe kishës, Mitropoliti ynë i dashur Ilia u tregua një bari me të vërtetë i përkushtuar ndaj tufës së tij dhe një shembull i ndritshëm besimi dhe mençurie. Ai do të përkujtohet gjithmonë për ngrohtësinë e tij dhe si një at i dashur në Krishtin për të gjithë ne.

I paharruar qoftë kujtimi i tij!





MEMBERSHIP



†2023 Memberships

Please send in or drop off your dues for 2023 and 2022 if you still have not done it; \$150 per individual over 21 years or old, \$250 for family membership covering both husband and wife plus children under 21 yrs of age. Please note "2023 dues" on your check.

If you are not yet a member but would like to join our parish, please speak to a member of the Parish Council for information. There is no initiation membership fee any more.

Member directory-If you need to update or correct your address or phone number for the next membership directory, please contact our church at **773-889-4282** or stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com. You can also contact Maria Barbachi if you want to give us your e-mail address to receive communication from our church. Also, if you are moving, please inform the church in regards to the forwarding address for future church communication.

Membership payment now can be done on our church website under donate button. The drop down list has "Membership" option you can use and make membership payments.

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
Shrine of the Holy Virgin Mary
2701 N. Narragansett Ave., Chicago, IL 60639

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OUR FAITH ▾

Kisha Orthodokse Autoqefale e Shqiperise | Greek Orthodox Archdiocese | Orthodoxy in America

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[St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church](#)

Ju lutemi sillni ose dergoni pagesen e anetaresise se Kishes per vitin 2023 dhe 2022 ne rast se nuk e keni bere akoma. Ajo eshte \$150 per personat mbi

21 vjet dhe \$250 per familjet qe mbulon burrin, gruan si dhe femijet e tyre ne moshen nen 21 vjet.

Ju lutem shenoni "2023 dues" ne cekun tuaj. Ne rast se ju nuk jeni anetar i kishes dhe deshironi te beheni, kontaktoni zyren e kishes apo nje nga anetaret e Keshillit te Kishes per informacionin e duhur. Ju lutem njoftoni Kishen ne rast se keni ndryshuar adresen e banimit apo numrin e telefonit per te bere korrigjimet e duhura ne listat e Kishes.

773-889-4282 or stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com.

LIFE OF THE MONTH'S SAINTS AND MAIN EVENT

Twelve Apostles /Kremtimi i 12 Apostujve

June 30/ 30 Qershor



Kremtohen dhe veç e veç, por ne, për t'i nderuar më shumë i kremtojmë së bashku më 30 qershor. Kremtimi së bashku filloi, ndoshta kur Perandori Konstandini i Madh ndërtoi në Konstandinopojë kishën e 12 Apostujve, e cila ishte njëkohësisht edhe mauzole ku ishin varrosur gati të gjithë perandorët bizantinë. Atje u varros edhe ai, në mes të arkivoleve të përgatitur të 12 Apostujve (atëherë shumica e tyre ishin ende bosh). Kisha e 12 Apostujve, e llojit bazilik, u dogj në një kryengritje në vitin 532 pas. Kr. Por, Perandori Justinian I (527-565) ndërtoi një kishë tjetër shumë të famshme midis viteve 536-546, e cila vinte e dyta pas Kishës së Shën Sofisë për nga rëndësia dhe madhësia. Pas pushtimit turk, më 1453, u bë Kisha Patriarkale, por Sulltan Mehmeti II (1451-1481) e shkatërroi, pasi ajo ishte simboli i Perandorisë së mundur Bizantine, pikërisht sepse në të ndodheshin

saj ai ndërtoi xhaminë e njohur me emrin e tij (Mehmedie). Kopja e kishës së 12 Apostujve është Katedralja e Shën Markut në Venecia. Në derën e kësaj kishë të Konstandinopojës ishin shkruar emrat e 12 Apostujve: Petri dhe Pavli, Andrea, Jakovi i Zevedheut, Joan Theologu, Filipi, Vartholomeu, Thomai, Mattheu, Simoni, Marku dhe Llukai. Kjo nuk është sipas listave me emrat e tyre që gjejmë në Dhiatën e Re (Mattheu 10, 2-4; Marku 3, 16-19; Llukai 6, 14-16; Vep. Ap. 1, 13). Kjo ishte sepse në grupin e të 12-ve ishin numëruar, në vend të apostujve Jakov i Alfeut, Thadheu dhe Matheu, që kremtohen së bashku me 70 dishepujt, edhe Shën Pavli dhe Ungjillorët Mark dhe Lluca, për kontributin e tyre për Krishterimin. Në fillimet e Krishterimit 12 apostujt kremtoheshin të Dielën e Parë pas Pashkës. Në ikonën përkatëse të apostujve, në qendër paraqiten Petri, Pavli dhe Joani, duke mbajtur në duar Kishën dhe gjithë të tjerët janë të vendosur në formë harku rreth tyre. Ata janë themeluesit e Kishës së Krishterë - jo si ndërtesë, por si Etër shpirtërorë. Edhe në ikonë ata janë të paraqitur sipas listës së shkruar në Kishën e 12 Apostujve.

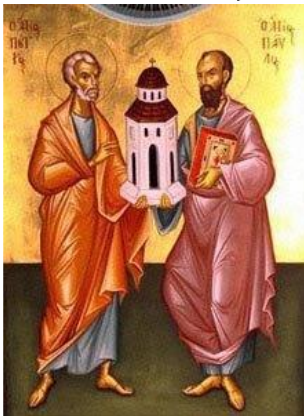
"Pastaj u ngjiti në mal dhe thirri pranë ata që deshë vetë; dhe ata shkuan tek ai. Dhe nga ata zgjodhi dymbëdhjetë që të rrinin me të, e që t'i dërgonte për të predikuar, e me pushtet për të shëruar sëmundjet, e për

të nxjerrë demonët: Simonin, të cilit i vuri emrin Petër; dhe Jakovin, të birin e Zevedheut, dhe Joanin, vëllain e Jakovit, të cilëve u vuri emrin Voanergjes, që do të thotë bij të bubullimës; dhe Andrean e Filipin, e Vartholomeun, e Mattheun, e Thomain, e Jakovin e Alfeut, e Thadheun, e Simon Kananitin, dhe Juda ISkariotin, i cili dhe e tradhtoi.”

Burimi: orthchal@orthodoxalbania.org



**†Saint Paul & Saint Peter, the Holy Apostles – Commemoration Day,
June 29**



The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman

by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection

and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday, there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes

were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness. And straightway- O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the

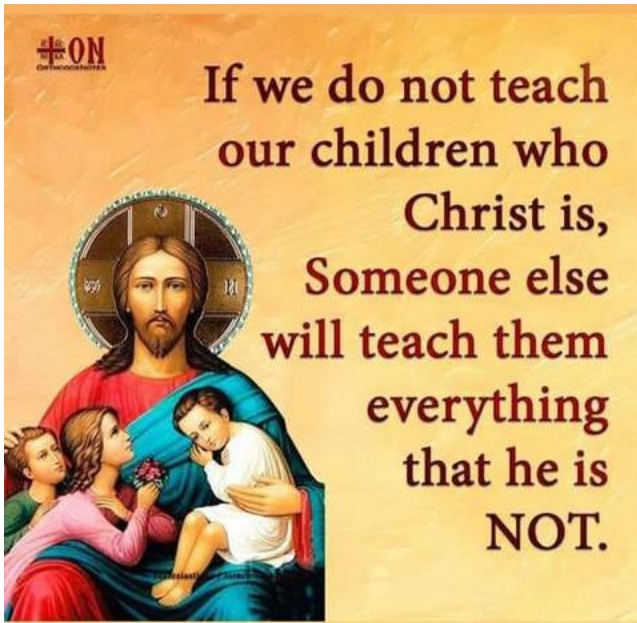
Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles. His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by the divine Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

Source: www.goarch.org





LAJME NGA PROGRAMI I EDUKIMIT FETAR



The Importance of Religious Education *Shkolla Shqip*

Attendance at the Divine Liturgy during summer

We all love summer and carefully plan our family vacations. This is a nice tradition. But what is not so nice, is the “tradition” of taking a vacation from church attendance. While it may happen to anyone to be absent one Sunday

from church for major reasons, there is no reason to “abandon” church for the whole summer, giving more priority to leisure activities. We have to think deeply as parents on what kind of example we’re giving our children. We have to examine carefully where our priorities stand. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

If someone would tell us that he is going to nourish his body only half of the year (when outside is cold and he has nothing else to do) and when the weather is nice he is just going to starve himself because he is going on a vacation, we would think: This person is foolish! We act as foolishly as this person if we do not take proper care and nourish our soul year around through daily prayer, Bible reading and active participation in church’s life and especially in the Divine Liturgy. This is vital for the health of our soul, like food is for our bodies. By participating in the Mysteries of the church, especially Holy Eucharist (Communion) we are granted by God’s mercy and love to taste the Lord to the fullest and be united with His Body and Blood unto Eternal Life. Take a vacation from work and find rest in God!





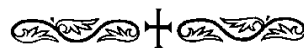
NOTICES



BRICK PROGRAM

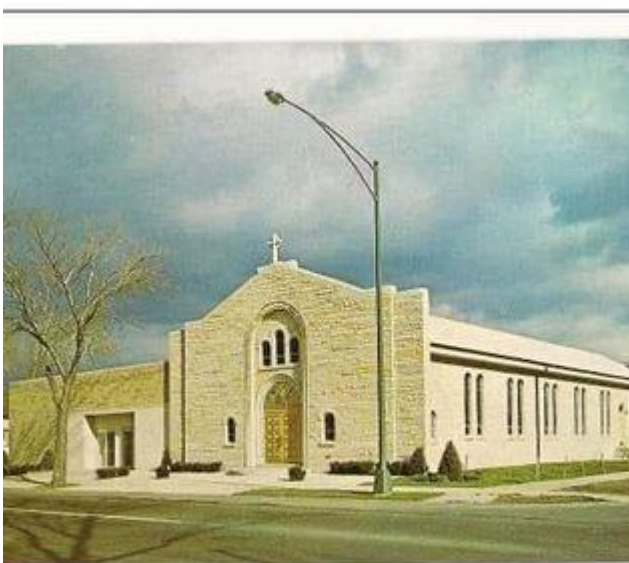
Donations for our Commemorative Brick Program are still being taken. Bricks can be made to honor a memory, mark a special occasion or to show support. A 4 inch by 8 inch brick with up to 3 lines of engraving can be ordered for a donation of \$250.00. Forms can be found at the candle stand or you may also request

a form be sent to you via email or US mail. To ensure the wording and spelling are printed correctly on the brick, a form must accompany payment.



YOU MAY NOW PAY YOUR 2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES ONLINE

Click on the DONATE button halfway down the home page on our website and follow the directions. You may also mail a check to the church or stop by the church office in person **AFTER** Liturgy.



DID YOU KNOW?

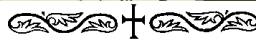
You may now donate to St. Nicholas Church by visiting our website: stnicholasalbanianchicago.org. The DONATE button can be found on the home page. A list of options will give you the ability to donate towards various funds, saints, and other causes. Check it out today!





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Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania Website



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website

