



# 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](http://stnicholasalbanianchicago.org)



**Welcome!**

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



MARCH 2023

### † Message form Father Kostandin

*Ju uroj te gjithëve nje muaj te mbare dhe te bekuar ne Zotin tone Jesu Krisht.  
Jeni te gjithë te mirepritur te beheni pjese e lutjeve dhe sherbesave te Kishes sone qe se bashku te krijojme nje atmosfere lutjeje dhe adhurimi te perbashket tek Perendia dhe te ndjehemi te gjithë qe jemi nje familje e bekuar dhe plot harmoni e dashuri per Perendine dhe njeri tjetrin.*

*Sepse ketu fillon shenjterimi i te krishterit drejt lartësive te paarritshme nga njeriu , por i leme vetet tona ne perkujdesjen Hyjnore.Prandaj ne fillim te ketij muaji dua tju kujtoj rregullin e pare te urdherimeve te shenjta qe eshte :*

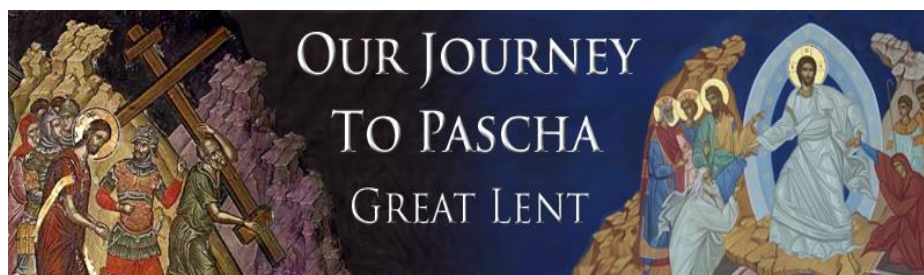
*1. Unë jam Zoti, Perëndia yt, që të nxorri nga vendi i Egjiptit, nga shtëpia e skllavërisë. Nuk do të kesh perëndi të tjera para meje!*

*Me dashuri dhe perulesi aterore  
Juaji At Kostandin*

I wish you all a happy and blessed month in our Lord Jesus Christ.

You are all welcome to be part of the prayers and services of our Church so that together we can create an atmosphere of common prayer and worship to God and we all feel that we are a blessed family full of harmony and love for God and each other. Here begins the Christian's sanctification towards heights unreachable by man, but we leave ourselves in Divine care. Therefore, at the beginning of this month, I want to remind you of the first rule of the holy commandments, which is: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me!"

With love and affection  
Yours Father Kostandin





# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES



## St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church Schedule of Services / Programi i Sherbesave March / Mars 2023

### *In-Person and Live Streamed Services*

*(LS Denotes Service Live Streamed on Facebook)*

#### March 2023

Mar 04 Sat	LS	Saturday of Souls E Shtuna e Shpirtrave	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Liturgjia Hyjnore
Mar 05 Sun	LS	Sunday of Orthodoxy E Orthodhoksisë	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Liturgjia Hyjnore
Mar 11 Sat	LS	Second Saturday of Lent E shtuna e dytë e Kreshmës	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Liturgjia Hyjnore
Mar 12 Sun	LS	St Gregory Palamas Sunday Grigor Pallamai	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Liturgjia Hyjnore
Mar 18 Sat	LS	Third Saturday of Lent E shtuna e tretë e Kreshmës	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Liturgjia Hyjnore
Mar 19 Sun	LS	Sunday of the Holy Cross Falja e Kryqit te Nderuar	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Liturgjia Hyjnore
Mar 25 Sat	LS	Annunciation of the Theotokos Ungjillëzimi i Hyjlindëses Mari (Vangjelizmoi)	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Liturgjia Hyjnore
Mar 26 Sun	LS	Sunday of St. John Climacus Joani i Shkalles	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Liturgjia Hyjnore

## DATES TO REMEMBER



†**March 26-** General Assembly

†**April 9,** Palm Sunday, Luncheon at Church Hall

†**April 16,** Great Holy Pascha (Easter)



### **Pascha 2023**

Year	Date	Day of the week
Pascha 2018	April 8, 2018	Sunday
Pascha 2019	April 28, 2019	Sunday
Pascha 2020	April 19, 2020	Sunday
Pascha 2021	May 2, 2021	Sunday
Pascha 2022	April 24, 2022	Sunday
<b>Pascha 2023</b>	<b>April 16, 2023</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Pascha 2024	May 5, 2024	Sunday
Pascha 2025	April 20, 2025	Sunday
Pascha 2026	April 12, 2026	Sunday
Pascha 2027	May 2, 2027	Sunday
Pascha 2028	April 16, 2028	Sunday

## **†SAVE THE DATE!**

**St. Nichols Albanian Orthodox  
Church Members  
Sunday, March 26, 2023  
General Assembly**

**Te diele me 23 Mars 2023  
*Do te zhvillohet mbjedhja e Asamblese se  
Pergjithshme te Kishes***

Watch for more details as the event approaches.  
*Do te kete me shume informacion per kete eveniment ne  
te ardhmen.*

## **SERVICES**

### **BLESSING OF HOMES**



It is an annual custom in the Epiphany Season starting on January 6) to bless our homes with the Agiasmos of Epiphany. This is an ancient tradition performed by a religious leader with the intention of protecting those who live in the house from hardships and trouble. Sometimes the blessing takes the form of hanging a framed picture of Christ with a prayer printed on it. Traditionally house blessings is done on Epiphany (January 6) to commemorate the Magi visiting Jesus and bringing Him

gifts (Matthew 2:11). If you would like to make an appointment to have your home or business blessed by Fr. Kostandin, please call him directly on his cell at 312-414-9887 or send him an email at [frkostandin@gmail.com](mailto:frkostandin@gmail.com). House blessings will take place beginning on January 6 and will end on Sunday, March 5, 2023. Once Easter/Pashka is past, you may, once again, make an appointment with Fr. Kostandin to bless your home or business.

*†Pas dates 6 Janar 2023 fillon periudha e bekimit te shtepive dhe perfundon te dielen e ndjesave. At Kostandini do te beje tre bekime ne dite, nje ne mengjes ,nje ne mesdite dhe nje ne darke. Ju mund te kerkoni bekim te shtepise tuaj ne menytrat e meposhtme:*

- 1. Ju mund te kontaktoni At Kostandinin ne numrin e tij te celularit 312-686-3114 (or via his email – [frkostandin@gmail.com](mailto:frkostandin@gmail.com)).*
- 2. Ju mund te kontaktoni zyren e kishes ne numrin 773-889-4282 te merkure ose te shtune nga ora 10 A.M. deri me 4P.M. Ne rast se nuk ju pergjigjet njeri, ju mund te lini mesazh me infomacion me emrin, numrin tuaj te telefonit dhe dikush do tu kontaktoje per te konfirmuar ditën dhe kohën e bekimit te banesës.*



# SCHEDULING

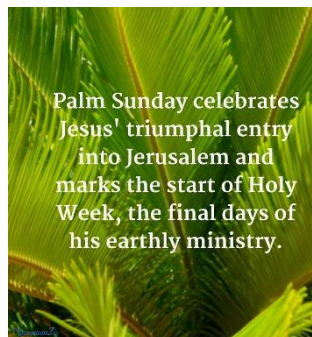
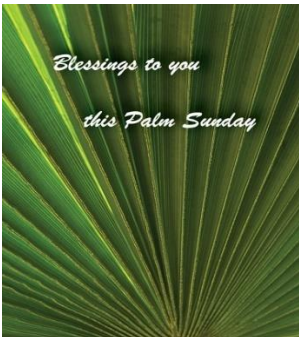


Father Kostandin would like to remind you to please contact him first regarding any and all scheduling of sacraments (baptisms, weddings, funerals) memorials, house blessings, hospital visitations, spiritual counseling and confessions. Please call him directly on his cell at 312-686-3114 or send him an email at [frkostandin@gmail.com](mailto:frkostandin@gmail.com).

*At Kostandini deshiron tu kujtoje ne te ardhmen ju lutem ta kontaktoni perpara se te planifikoni evenimente fetare si pagezime, martesha, funerale, perkujtimore, bekime banesash, vizita ne spitale, keshillime shpirtore, dhe rrefime. Ju lutemi kontaktoni At Kostandinin direct ne numrin e celularit 312-686-3114 ose dergojini atij mesazh e-maili ne [frkostandin@gmail.com](mailto:frkostandin@gmail.com).*



**Have you moved?** Do you have a new email address? Have you changed your phone number? Please stop by the office, call or send an email to update your contact information. Keni nderuar adresen e banimit? Keni nderuar adreses e e-mailit? Keni nderuar numrin e telefonit? Ju lutemi na njoftoni. Ju mund te vini ne zyren e kishes, mund ten a merrni ne telefon apo ten a dergoni mesazh ne e-mailin e Kishes: **773-889-4282** or [stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com).



## **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

ST. NICHOLAS ALBANIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH

**PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY, April 9, 2023**

IN THE CHURCH HALL  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LITURGY  
COME JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS  
FISH Lunch  
AND WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP

SPONSORED BY THE ST. NICHOLAS LADIES  
AUXILIARY

**Tickets will be sold in the church hall  
on Sundays.**





# MEMBERSHIP



## †2023 Memberships

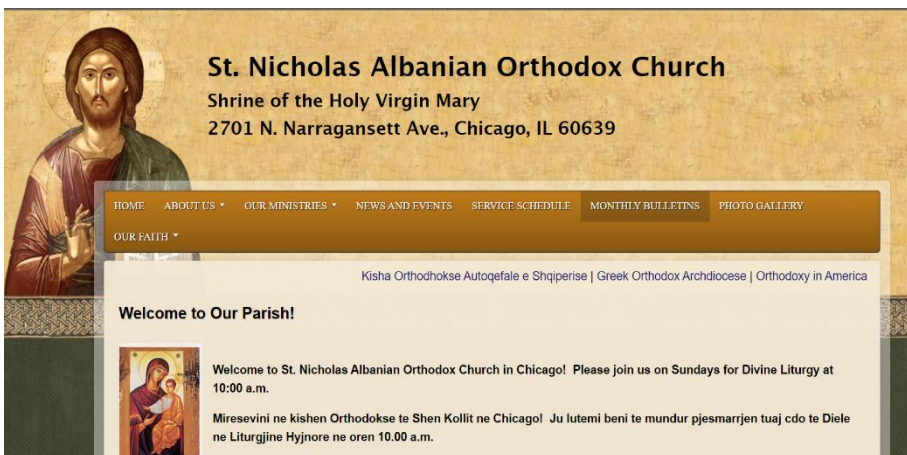
Please send in or drop off your dues for 2023 and 2022 if you still have not done it; \$150 per individual over 21 years or old, \$250 for family membership covering both husband and wife plus children under 21 yrs of age. Please note "2023 dues" on your check.

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](mailto: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](#)



*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](mailto:stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com).





The Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank all the members of our community who participated in our Pre-Lenten Luncheon. Thanks to your support we were able to raise much needed funds for various repairs in our church building. A special thank you goes to all the hard-working ladies who organized the event and meticulously took care of every detail. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and desserts, the beautifully decorated hall and the wonderful music provided as a free offering for the church by our talented DJ Grigori Puja. May God bless us to always work together for His glory and keep our community united in a spirit of brotherly love in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

*- Shoqeria e Grave deshiron te falenderoje te gjithe anetaret e komunitetit qe moren pjese ne dreken e te Lidhurit te Mishit. Fale mbeshtetjes suaj u be e mundur mbledhja e fondeve qe do te perdoren per riparime te ndryshme ne kisha. Nje falenderim i vecante per te gjitha zonjat qe punuan pa u lodhur per te organizuar eventin. Te gjitha shijuan ushqimin e mrekullueshem dhe muziken qe u ofrua falas nga DJ yne i talentuar Grigori Puja. Perendia n'a bekoftë gjithmone qe te punojme se bashku ne nje fryme dashurie vellazerore per lavdi te Zotit tone Jesu Krisht!*

Please save the date for Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting the traditional Palm Sunday Luncheon. A delicious fish lunch will be provided in the church hall after the liturgy. More details ticket price and menu will be forthcoming so please check the church weekly emails or the website.

*- Shenoni ne kalendaret tuaj daten 9 Prill, e Diela e Dafinave. Si cdo vit do te organizohet dreka tradicionale me peshk per te Dielen e Dafinave, ne hollin e kishes menjehere pas Liturgjise Hyjnore. Me shume detaje mbi cmimin e biletave dhe menune do te jepen ne te ardhmen. Shikoni email javor te kishes dhe website per kete qellim.*







## Metropolitan Ilia, of blessed memory

† From the Bishop's Throne

**Solemn Processions** There are two solemn processions during Great Lent. The first one is on the Sunday of Orthodoxy and always on the first Sunday in Lent. Holy Icons are carried around the church in remembrance of their restoration to Orthodox use in 843 AD on the first Sunday in Lent following the controversy over their use which lasted about 150 years.

The Church understands the use of

Holy Icons to be for veneration and the honor given passes to the prototype depicted. The second solemn procession takes place on the third Sunday in Lent when the faithful are called upon to offer adoration to the Holy Cross, It is the midpoint of Great Lent and by offering the Holy Cross for adoration the faithful are encouraged to persevere in spiritual struggles toward the glory and joy of the Holy Resurrection of Christ. Each person receives a flower, a symbol of beauty and fragrance, from the tray upon which the Cross of Christ stands, a symbol of faith and victory.

**Dy Procesionet-** Gjatë periudhës së Kreshmës zhvillohen dy procesione në kohën e Liturgjisë Hynore. E para i takon të Dielës së Parë të Orthodhoksisë kur ikonat e shenjtat mbahen nëpër duart të besimtarëve dhe parakalojnë rreth e përçark Kishës duke përkujtuar evenimentin e vitit 843, të Dielën e Parë të Kreshmës kur ikonat u restaruan nëpër Kishat për përdorim fetar. Festa e restaurimit të ikonave përfundoi sherrin 150 vjeçar në lidhje me vëndin e ikonave në adhurimin Orthodhoks.

Procesion i dyte praktikohet të Dielën e Tretë të Kreshmës kur besimtarët ftohen ti falen Kryqit të nderuar që çarkullon me ceremoninë në Kishë dhe shënon gjysmën e Kreshmës. Kjo bëhet për ti dhenë kurrajo dhe shpresë besimtarëve dhe simboli i besimit dhe i fitores është Kryqi i Zotit. Kryqi lartësohet në një disk të stolisur me lule të bukura. Me shpresë besimtarët puthin Kryqin dhe marrin një lule për kujtim të ditës, e çojnë në shtëpi dhe e vendosin me ikonat për hirësi dhe bekim.

+Metropolitan Ilia

### ICON AUCTION



**Thank you to those who bid and generously donated to St. Nicholas during our annual icon auction on January 8 and 15. A list of icons and their donor is posted in the narthex. We raised over \$8,000.00 which will be put to good use towards the upkeep of the building and grounds. Just a reminder to those who took icons home with them: the icons should be returned to the church by Sunday, March 12. You can return them to Fr. Kostandin or a parish council member.**





## **LIFE OF THE MONTH'S SAINTS AND MAIN EVENTS**



Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. The first Sunday is called the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 Jn 5:4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Gen 1:26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image.

The Second Sunday of Lent is the commemoration of St Gregory Palamas. It was St. Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God's divine glory.

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:38). For in the

Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor 1:24).

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to St John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of St 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). Saint 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).

The Fifth Sunday recalls the memory of Saint Mary of Egypt, the repentant harlot. Mary tells us, first of all, that no amount of sin and wickedness can keep a person from God if he truly repents. Christ himself has come "to call sinners to repentance" and to save them from their sins (Lk 5:32). In addition, Saint Mary tells us that it is never too late in life—or in Lent—to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him even at the eleventh hour of their lives. But their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance. **Source:**

[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)



## **TË DIELAT E KRESHMËS**



*Secila nga të Dielat e Kreshmës së Madhe ka temëne saj të veçantë. E Diela e parë është Festa e Triumfit të Orthodhoksisë. Ajo është një festë historike, që përkujton kthimin e ikonave në kishanë vitin 843, mbas fitores kundër herezisë iko-noklaste. Tema shpirtërore e kësaj të Diele është, para së gjithash, fitorja e Besës së Vërtetë: “Kjo është fitorja që e mundi botën: besa jonë” (I Joani 5:4). Së dyti, ikonat e shenjtoreve dëshmojnë që njeriu “i krijuar sipas shëmbëllesës dhe ngjashmërisë së Perëndisë” (Gjeneza 1:26), bëhet i shenjtë dhe i ngjashëm me Perëndinë, nëpërmjet pastrimit të vetvetes, si imazhi i gjallë i Perëndisë.*

*E Diela e Dytë e Kreshmës përkujton Shën Grigor Pallamanë (v. 1359). Ai dha një dëshmi të gjallëse si njerëzit mund të bëhen hyjnorë nëpërmjethirit të Perëndisë, në Shpirtin e Shenjtë; dhe kjonë këtë jetë, nëpërmjet lutjeve dhe agjëri me veqeniet njerëzore mund të bëhen pjesëmarrës të dritës së pakrijuar të lavdisë hyjnore të Perëndisë.*

*E Diela e tretë është e Nderimit të Kryqit. Kryqi qëndron në mes të Kishës, pothuaj në mesin ekreshmës, jo vetëm thjesht për t’i kujtuar njerëzit për shpëtimin e bërë nga Krishti dhe për të mbajtur parasysht qëllimin e përpjekjeve të tyre, por edhe gjithashtu për ta nderuar, atë si si realitet, me anëtë të*

*cilit njeriu mund të rrojë dhe të shpëtohet. “Ai që nuk e merr kryqin e tij dhe nuk vjen pas meje nuk është i denjë për mua” (Matheu 10:38). Sepse në Kryqin e Krishtit të Kryqëzuar qëndrojnë “fuqia e Perëndisë dhe dituria e Perëndisë” për ata që janë shpëtuar (I Korinthianët 1:24).*

*E Diela e Katërt i kushtohet Shën Joanit të Shkallës (Klimakut), autorit të librit Shkalla e Ngjitjes Hyjnore. Igumeni i Manastirit të Shën Katerinës në Malin e Sinaït (shekulli i 6-të), qëndronsi një dëshmitar për përpjekjet e forta që nevojiten për të hyrë në Mbretërinë e Perëndisë (Matheu 11:12). Lufta shpirtërore e jetës së krishterë është reale, “jo kundër gjakut e mishit, por kundër... sunduesve të botës së errësirës së kësaj jete, kundër frymërave të liga në vendet qiellore...” (Efesianët 6:12). Shën Joani i inkurajon besnikët në përpjekjet e tyre, sepse sipas Zotit, vetëm “kush do të durojë deri në fund, ky do të shpëtojë” (Matheu 24:13).*

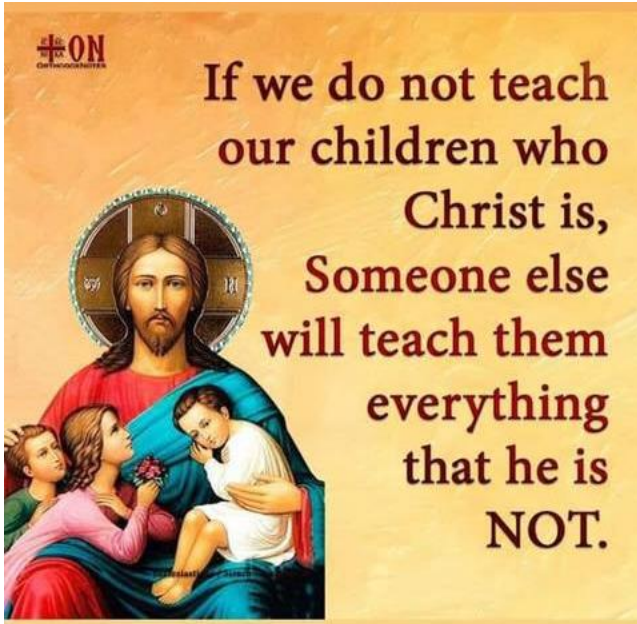
*E Diela e Pestë përkujton Shën Marinë egjiptiane, laviren e penduar. Maria na tregon, para së gjithash, se sado të shumtë të jenë mëkatet, ato nuk mund ta mbajnë larg Perëndisë një njeri të penduar sinqerisht. Vetë Krishti erdhi për të “thirrur mëkatarët në pendim” dhe për t’i shpëtuar ata prej mëkateve të tyre (Lluka 5:32). Për më tepër, Shën Mariana tregon se kurrë nuk është vonë në jetë - apo në kreshmë - për t’u penduar. Krishti do t’i presë megëzim të gjithë ata që do vijnë tek ai në orën e një-mbëdhjetë të jetës së tyre. Por ardhja e tyre duhet të jetë në një pendim serioz dhe të sinqertë.*

*Burimi: [www.orthodoxwiki.org](http://www.orthodoxwiki.org)*





## ***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS*** ***LAJME NGA PROGRAMI I EDUKIMIT FETAR***



### **The Importance of Religious Education**

Christian education is a permanent challenge to the work of the Church. Not only did our Lord and Savior continuously teach the word of God during His early mission, but the Church as well from the earliest times looked upon Christian education as one of its essential ministries. The greatest gift, the most precious inheritance that we have to give to our children is our Orthodox Faith. The Lord makes it clear that He wants children to come to know Him, and that

He considers it a grave offence for an adult to hinder this process or lead the child astray: "Let the children come to me, so not to hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God."

The focus of our efforts to educate our beloved children in the Orthodox Christian Faith must remain in our Religious Education program. When we bring our children regularly to classes of Religious Education, we provide them with a gift of knowledge that has lifelong value and significance.

Parents: Bring your children to the Religious Education. Your personal example and involvement in the religious education of your children are extremely important. The priest and teachers cannot do the job alone. Here is how you can help develop the spiritual life and moral upbringing of your children.

Register your child to our Religious Education Program.

Bring them to Church on time and stay and worship at the Divine Liturgy

Be positive about Church and put Church before every other activity on Sunday. Discuss with them what they learned each Sunday and give your personal example of Christian living.

Let your love for Our Lord Jesus Christ radiate.

