

The Weekly Messenger – September 11, 2016
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979
Website: <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: John 3:13-17

The Elevation of the Cross, celebrated on the fourteenth of September - (**We will Celebrate with a Vespertine Liturgy on Tuesday, September 13th @ 7:00 pm**) - commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.
<https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/elevation-of-the-cross>

Gregory E Costa Golf Outing: We are asking for donations of items to make gift baskets or a donation of a gift basket for our Albanian Auction. We will also gratefully accept any donated gift baskets. The 9th Gregory E Costa golf outing is set for Sunday, October 2, 2016. Golf and dinner \$125.00. Dinner tickets \$40.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. We will have a 50/50 and our annual Albanian Auction.

Commemorations for the Departed: The victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Ted & Pauline Ciko, Jorgjia Kashari, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Commemorations for the Living: Father Brooks, Newborn Mario, Erion, Elvira, Kopi Gusho, Tom Zoidis, John Kolea, Jr., William Spiro, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Semele Halkedis, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Philip Kosta, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Clive & Dhimitri Miller, Kim Burdumy, Andigoni Steffa, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

Semi- Annual Parish Meeting, Sunday, October 16, 2016 We will elect members of Parish Council for the 2017 term – we currently have 2 open positions. The 2017 budget will be presented. Updates on the status of our parish and plans for the future. If you would like to serve on Parish Council please contact Father Brooks.

Monthly giving for September: Ream of white paper

Sunday school News: *First day of class, NEXT September 18, 2016.* Attention all parents, grandparents, Godparents, aunts and uncles. Since most of our Sunday school students do not drive we are counting on **YOU** to bring them to church each Sunday morning. Help them to learn about their Orthodox faith by participating in our Sunday school program, which is from little toddlers through high school seniors! Contact Steve Coraluzzi, sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org or Father Brooks fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org with any questions about our program.

Coffee Hour Sponsors: We have sponsors for ALL Sundays!!
Our sincere thanks to all who have or are going to sponsor a coffee hour this year.

September 11 th Sunday School	October 9 th Kashari Family in memory of Jorgjia
September 18 th Lakuriqi Family	October 16 th Nilda Salavaci & Spartak Brahollari
September 25 th Lescas Family	October 23 rd Sunday school
October 2 nd Mihal Frashari	

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY Sept 13th Feast of the Elevation of the Cross Liturgy @ 7:00 pm
Sept 18th First day of Sunday school
Sept 20th – 22nd OCA Metropolitan Council Meeting – Syosset NY
Sept 22nd - 24th Thurs – Saturday - Archdiocesan Assembly Southbridge MA
October 2nd Gregory E. Costa Golf Classic & Dinner
TUESDAY October 4th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm
October 5th – November 9th Every Wednesday evening Father Brooks will discuss the History of Orthodoxy in his Education Class
October 9th 1 Year Memorial Jorgjia Kashari
October 16th Semi-Annual Parish Meeting – Parish Council Election
October 23rd Wedding of Laureta Lakuriqi & Jack Kittle
SATURDAY Nov 5th Baptism of Kristo George Diamanti, son of Fiori & Theordhor
Nov 20th Parish Nameday Celebration & Luncheon / Archbishop Nikon will visit

Parishioner News: Congratulations to Elvira & Erion Gusho on the birth of their son, Mario Dion, born on August 16, 2016, weighing 9 lbs! Mario is the little brother of our Altar Server, Kopi Gusho. May God grant them Many Years!

Happy Birthday to Jamie Ledford (Sept 11th) and Happy Anniversary to Father Books & Jamie, -32nd wedding anniversary (Sept 12th). Many Years!

Pledge Update: As of the end of August we have received 101 pledges totaling \$52,506.00. Our budget for 2016 is \$60,000.00 so we have a way to go to reach our goal. Our income is \$90,083.52, expenses \$121,731.25, a deficit of \$31,655.73. Please contact Treasurer Michele Anderson with any questions treasurer@stjohnsphila.org