

The Weekly Messenger – August 6, 2017
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: II Peter 1:10-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

The transfiguration of Christ is one of the central events recorded in the gospels. Immediately after the Lord was recognized by His apostles as “the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the Living God,” He told them that “He must go up to Jerusalem and suffer many things . . . and be killed and on the third day be raised” (Mt 16). The announcement of Christ’s approaching passion and death was met with indignation by the disciples. And then, after rebuking them, the Lord took Peter, James, and John “up to a high mountain”—by tradition Mount Tabor—and was “transfigured before them.”

The feast of the Transfiguration is presently celebrated on the sixth of August, probably for some historical reason. The summer celebration of the feast, however, has lent itself very well to the theme of transfiguration. The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God’s unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

<https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/transfiguration>

Blessing of the Fruit: As it is a past custom, Father Brooks will bless grapes and other Fruits - brought in by our parishioners - following the Divine Liturgy.

Commemorations for the Departed: Tom Zoidis, Alan, Ted Lescas, 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: Newlywed Marsel & Jonida Karemani, Newly Illuminated Elena Shomos, Zach Smith, Sara, Michael Cosmo, Wayne Merkle, Richard Moon, Paul Dimitri, Elizabeth Jones, John Kolea Jr, William Spiro, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Kim Burdumy, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

In 5 short weeks: Parish Clean-up Day Saturday, September 9, 2017 @ 9:00am we will meet at the church, use some elbow grease and make our church sparkle! If you are able to attend please email info@stjohnsphila.org or advise a member of parish council. Questions contact Linda Kosta or Donna Dimitri

Parishioner News: Congratulations and Many Years to Marsel & Jonida Karemani who were married Saturday, Aug. 5th. Wishing you a lifetime of happiness.

Outdoor Liturgy and Church Picnic: Mark your calendars, Sunday, August 20, 2017 at Neshaminy State Park. We will meet at 10:00 and celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Following the Liturgy we will gather for a picnic. Food, music, dancing, games, a day of fun! The last Liturgy/Picnic was July 21, 2002. Our church picnic was very successful last year and we hope more parishioners are able to join us this August 20th!

Coffee Hour Sponsors: *We have open dates in August and September and October.* Please take a look at the sign-up sheet and pick a date!!! August 6th Elena Shomos & Zach Smith (in honor of Elena’s Chrismation)
August 13th Lescas Family 40 day memorial Ted
August 20th CHURCH PICNIC @ Neshaminy State Park
August 27th, Sept 3rd, 24th, Oct 1st, 22nd, Dec 3rd 17th, 31st open dates no sponsors

Upcoming Events:

August 6th Transfiguration Chrismation Elena Shomos

Tuesday August 8th 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting

August 13th 40 day Memorial Ted Lescas

Monday August 14th 7:00pm Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Saturday August 19th Wedding Florina Bacuta & Drew Garcia

August 20th Liturgy in the park and church picnic - Neshaminy State Park

Saturday Sept 9th Church Clean-up day

Friday Sept 22nd Archdiocesan Assembly hosted by our Parish /Dinner in church hall

Saturday Sept 23rd Thanksgiving service and brunch in church hall

Oct 1st Gregory E Costa Golf Classic and dinner – Paxon Hollow Country Club

Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar! To our parishioners and friends who celebrate their Nameday in August: 6th Holy Transfiguration (Sotir), August 15th Dormition of the Theotokos (Mary, Maria, Marie)

Contacting Father Brooks: You can reach Father Brooks at church, 215-563-0979, at, 215-992-9234 or via email, fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org. If the phone goes to voice mail please leave a message and Father Brooks will call you back.

August Giving: snacks, juice boxes for the Sunday school