

**The Weekly Messenger – May 14, 2017**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979  
Website: <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>  
Email address: [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

*Epistle: Acts 11:19-30      Gospel: John 4:5-42*

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

**The fifth Sunday of Holy Pascha** is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. The day commemorates the encounter of Christ with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. The biblical story of this event and the dialog between Christ and the woman is found in the Gospel of Saint John 4:5-42. Read more:

<https://www.goarch.org/-/fifth-sunday-of-pascha-sunday-of-the-samaritan-woman>

**Please send information about the graduates in your family**, College, High School, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. Please send an email to [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org) Include the name of the graduate and the school from which they graduated. For 8<sup>th</sup> grade let us know what high school they will be attending next year, HS grads if they are attending college, the name of the college, or what they will be pursuing. College graduates, their degree and plans for the future. We would also like the proud parents and grandparents names. Thank-you!

**Commemorations for the Departed:** All of our departed Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, 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:** All of our Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Elida, Roxane Ghicondey, Jim Ghicondey, Richard Moon, Paul Dimitri, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Zoidis, 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.

**Thank-you to the Outreach Committee:** Janice Leyden, Costina Bacuta, Carolyn Dardaris, Linda Kosta, Tatjana Plesati, Marinela Prifti, Albana Qendro and Father Brooks for organizing "Bring a Friend to Church Day". We had about 20 visitors and a wonderful coffee hour sponsored by the committee. Father Brooks explained the various parts of the Divine Liturgy as he went along. It was a very educational day for all!

**Message from Father Brooks:** Once again - the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman - we are confronted with a radical Jesus. Not only did this "Rabbi" speak to a woman; he spoke to a Samaritan woman (the Samaritans and the Jews were enemies). Out of his love for everyone, Jesus brought her and other Samaritans to the Truth. This reminds me of the beauty of our parish. No matter who walks through our doors, they are welcomed and treated with respect. I've seen, since I've been here, so many wonderful interactions between our parishioners and strangers and visitors. May we, in the spirit of Christ, continue this beautiful outreach. Peace to all.

**Mother's Day is a holiday** honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day most commonly falls on the second Sunday in May and traditionally involves presenting mothers with flowers, cards and other gifts.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers and those who have been mother figures in our lives.

**Memorial Day Grave Blessing at Fernwood & Lawnview Cemeteries:** Father Brooks will be at Fernwood Cemetery on Monday, May 29, 2017 @ 10:00 am, at the "upper portion" of the cemetery. He will then proceed to the other section to bless the graves. He will arrive at Lawnview Cemetery around 12:30 pm. Please contact him if you have a loved one at another cemetery. [fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org) Or call Father Brooks 215-992-9234.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** We have many open dates in July, August and September and October. **Please take a look at the sign-up sheet and pick a date!!!**

May 14<sup>th</sup> Kosova Family

May 21<sup>st</sup> Koco & Mimoza Priftanji

May 28<sup>th</sup> Fjorentina Lakuriqi & Ilir Gremi (1 year wedding anniversary)

June 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday School

June 11<sup>th</sup> Greta Dilo

June 18<sup>th</sup> Blerina & Darien Kokalari

June 25<sup>th</sup> Jim & Roxane Ghicondey

**Upcoming Events:**

May 14<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day

**Wednesday** May 24<sup>th</sup> Ascension Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

May 28<sup>th</sup> Youth group luncheon and book discussion

**Monday** May 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Father Brooks will bless the graves at Fernwood & Lawnview

June 4<sup>th</sup> Pentecost - We will also have Sunday school graduation and swim party

**Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm