

The Weekly Messenger – August 12, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: I Corinthians 9:2-12 Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Excerpts from Saint John Chrysostom’s homily on 11th Sunday of St. Matthew (Matt. 18:25-35) On forgiving our enemies... Say not then that he insulted you, and slandered you, and did unto you ills beyond number; for the more you tell, so much the more do you declare him a benefactor. For he has given you an opportunity to wash away your sins; so that the greater the injuries he has done you, so much more is he become to you a cause of a greater remission of sins. For if we be willing, no one shall be able to injure us, but even our enemies shall advantage us in the greatest degree. And why do I speak of men? For what can be more wicked than the devil; yet nevertheless, even hence have we a great opportunity of approving ourselves; and Job shows it. But if the devil has become a cause of crowns, why are you afraid of a man as an enemy? Read more: <https://www.straphaeldetroit.org/files/Say-not-then-that-he-insulted-you.pdf>

The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ’s mother. It proclaims that Mary has been “assumed” by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not “voluntarily” as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who “hear the word of God and keep it” (Lk 11.27–28). <https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/dormition-of-the-theotokos> **We will celebrate the Dormition on** Tuesday, August 14th, 2018 @ 7:00p

Outdoor Liturgy and Church Picnic: Sunday, August 26, 2018 at Neshaminy State Park. We will meet at 12:00 pm at Pavilion 1 and celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Following the Liturgy, we will gather for a picnic. Food, music, dancing, games, a day of fun! Bring a friend.

Commemorations for the Departed: Christine Stavrou, Wayne Merkle, Lilly Shallapi, Jorgjia Kashari (2 yrs.), 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: Madge Graziani, Donna Hlavcek, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email info@stjohnsphila.org

Coffee Hour Sponsors: *Please check the sign-up sheet in the vestibule and pick a date or visit our website and signup online: <https://teamup.com/ksqta3sqv6k1qvr2o7>*

The following dates have no sponsors: Sept 2nd Sept 30th Oct 28th Nov 4th and Dec 30th.

Thank you to those who have or are going to sponsor a coffee hour!
August 12th Marinela Prifti
August 19th Sergio & Colleen 40-year Memorial
August 26th Liturgy in the Park

Upcoming Events:

TUESDAY Aug 14th 7:00 pm Vespers Liturgy – Dormition of the Theotokos followed by pot luck dinner in the church hall
Aug 19th Wedding of Costina Bacuta & Michael Morrison 1:00 pm
Aug 26th Divine Liturgy & Church Picnic Neshaminy State Park 12:00 pm
40-day Memorial for Wayne Merkle
Saturday Sept 15th Church clean-up day 10:00 am and
Charity & Benevolence prep for Sunday Sept 16th

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)

August Giving: snacks, juice boxes for the Sunday school