

The Weekly Messenger – July 8, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Romans 12:6-14 Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

6th Sunday of Matthew (of the paralytic): The Lord desires to see something from man, in order that He might act. It says here: *“He saw their faith”*. The paralytic was not able on his own to go to the Lord. For this reason, he was brought by others, and the Lord saw their faith. Still he means here that in some way He also saw the faith of the paralytic. He, the paralytic, would not have come to the Lord if he had not believed. And, immediately, the Lord said: *“Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you”*.

On another occasion, Christ said: *“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world”*. On this occasion it is as though He were saying: “I am here to **heal** man of his **bodily illness**, but first and foremost to heal him of sin, the sickness of the **soul**”. It is a big deal to feel that your sins are forgiven, that God forgives you, and that He has accepted you. Just as your blood circulates through your veins, in this same way you ought to feel God’s forgiveness, circulating through you.

Not one of us should have even the smallest **doubt** that if the Lord sees our faith, He will immediately answer and straightway give us His forgiveness, i.e., that which we are seeking. In order though for the Lord to forgive you, you have to arrive at the point of saying: “My God, I do not want to sin anymore.”

<http://www.orthodoxpath.org/catechisms-and-articles/sixth-sunday-matthew-paralytic/>

Commemorations for the Departed: Lilly Shallapi, Michael Theokary, 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: Donna Hlavcek, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Wayne Merkle, 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

Outdoor Liturgy and Church Picnic: Mark your calendars, Sunday, August 26, 2018 at Neshaminy State Park. We will meet at 12:00 pm 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.

The Charity & Benevolence Committee: The C&B Committee will be having a clothing drive. All donations new and gently used can be dropped off at the candle stand. Please look through your closets and share with those in need. (No household items please). Our plan is to have a donation table laden with collected items & sandwiches made by our Sunday school students outside the church on Sunday, September 16th - Elevation of the Cross. A day when we celebrate Jesus' love for humanity and his victory over death. There couldn't be a better day to start our outreach!

August 15th--there will be a "brief" meeting after to church to sort what we have collected and finalize. All interested in helping us are urged to attend...we will need lot of hands to get this going!!

September 15th--3pm "the making of the sandwiches" please come or stay after cleaning the church to help out. We especially encourage the Sunday school kids to attend.

September 16th--"Taking up our cross" give-away event. Our goal is to make this a monthly/bi-monthly event. Other activities we have planned for the fall are a collection of food items for the Sunday Breakfast Mission & donations for the Orthodox Home of Hope orphanage in Albania. In April, we hope to finalize a mission trip to New Skeet Monastery.

Please help us to make our mission to help others a success!!!

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>*

July 8th Elvira & Erion Gusho

July 15th NO SPONSOR

July 22nd Zoidis Family

July 29th Pandi & Liska Bello in honor of Pandi's Nameday

August 5th Linda Kosta in memory of Harry's 100th Birthday

Upcoming Events:

July 10th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

July 22nd 1 - year memorial Tom Zoidis

July 23rd – 27th All American Council & Archdiocesan Assembly St. Louis MO

Aug 3rd – Aug 5th AANO Convention Washington D.C.

Aug 14th Vespereal Liturgy – Dormition of the Theotokos 7:00 pm followed by pot luck

Aug 19th Wedding of Costina Bacuta & Michael Morrison 1:00 pm

Aug 26th Divine Liturgy & Church Picnic Neshaminy State Park 12:00 pm

Saturday Sept 15th Church clean-up day 10:00 am and

Charity & Benevolence prep for Sunday Sept 16th

July Giving: Paper towels