

The Weekly Messenger – June 3, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979 or fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org
Website: <http://www.stjohnsphila.org>
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2 *Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30*

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Read more: <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/06/03/48-synaxis-of-all-saints>

Commemorations for the Departed: The victims in Santa Fe, Texas, the victims in Gaza, Thoma Prifti, 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: The victims and families in Santa Fe Texas, the families in Gaza, Richard Trout, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Craig Risley, 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.

Sunday School Pool Party & Barbeque: Saturday, June 16th 11:00 am – 2:00 pm @ Kathie Costa's house. Questions contact Steve: sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org

Memorial Day Grave Blessing at Fernwood Cemetery: Father Brooks will be at Fernwood Cemetery on **Saturday, June 9, 2018**, 10:00 am, at the "upper portion" of the cemetery. He will then proceed to the other section to bless the graves.

fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org Or call Father Brooks 215-992-9234

Stewardship update: Through May 31, 2018 we have received 57 pledges totaling \$34,395.00. Of that total we have received \$16,648.00. May people pledge and pay monthly, others pledge and pay toward the end of the year. Our budget for pledges was \$60,000.00. During the summer months many people go on vacation and the money donated to our church dramatically decreases. Our expenses do not decrease during the summer months. The fixed expenses, insurance, priest salary, pension payments, phone and internet, candles, etc., do not decrease. In fact, the electric bill increases due to the use of the air conditioner. If you haven't made a pledge for 2018, please do! Thank you very much to those who have pledged. You can submit your pledge online <https://stjohnsphila.org/pledge.html>

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>*

June 3rd Mike & Carolyn Dardaris

June 10th Diane & Steve Coraluzzi

June 17th Jim & Roxane Ghicondey

June 24th Diane Lescas & Family in memory of Ted

July 1st NO SPONSOR

July 8th Elvira & Erion Gusho

Parishioner News: Congratulations to Ermelinda & George Kosova on the birth of their second daughter, Alta Nicole who was born on April 6th. Alta is the little sister of Ergesa and the granddaughter of Marcel and Natasha Kosova. Many Years to the Kosova family!

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, June 2nd YAL get together @ Elena and Zach's house, 6:00 pm

Tuesday, June 5th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Thursday, June 7th Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

June 10th Final day of Sunday school and graduation

Tuesday, June 12th Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

SATURDAY June 16th Pool party and barbeque at K. Costa's house

June 24th 1-year Memorial Ted Lescas

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

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

Aug 26th Divine Liturgy & Church Picnic Neshaminy State Park

Per Shume Vjet, Gezuar! To our parishioners who celebrate their Namedays in June: June 1 Martyr Justin the Philosopher, June 27 St. Joanna Myrrhbearer, June 29 Ss Peter & Paul, June 30 All Saints

June Monthly Giving: A box of tissues. Thank you to those who donated cups in May