

The Weekly Messenger – September 17, 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: <https://www.stjohnsphila.org>
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 Gospel: Mark 8-34-38; 9:1

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross - Commemorated on September 14th

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulcher of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulcher of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire. Read more: <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2014/09/14/102610-the-universal-exaltation-of-the-precious-and-life-giving-cross>

Commemorations for the Departed: Martha Murianka, Todd Lorimer, Brad Mayo (Bob Flanagan's son-in-law), 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 Marinela Prifti & Fred Tsapournas, Newlywed Costina Bacuta & Michael Morrison, Jane, 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

Welcome to our visitors. Father Brooks, the members of our Parish Council and our church community thank you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us. We invite you to join us for coffee hour and fellowship in the church hall following the Divine Liturgy.

Sunday school News: FIRST DAY OF CLASS: Sunday, Sept. 16. The children will participate in the procession for the Elevation of the Cross. Thank you to Director Steve and all of our teachers for volunteering your time and talents to our Sunday school program. We look forward to a great year! If you would like to help – in any way- with our Sunday school program please contact Father Brooks fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org or Director Steve Coraluzzi sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org



Many thanks to Greg Dardaris, Michael Dardaris and Bob Fiss for hanging the Icon of the Theotokos in the church hall. The men were at the church Wednesday night for a few hours getting the Icon in just the right spot. WE are blessed to have such a talented team. Great job and much appreciated!

Altar Server Reminder: If you would like to serve in the altar please arrive before 10:00 am so you will be vested and ready to go when the Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00.

Upcoming Events:

Sept 16th Elevation of the Cross and first day of Sunday School

Sept 18th Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

Sept 19th – 21st OCA Metropolitan Council Meeting Syosset NY

Sept 20th Archdiocesan Teleconference

Oct 2nd Parish Council meeting 7:00 pm

Oct 14th Semi-annual Parish meeting following the Divine Liturgy

Oct 28th Halloween Party during coffee hour

Nov 11th Parish Nameday Celebration

Nov 15th Nativity Fast Begins

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>*

We have only one date with NO SPONSOR: NEXT SUNDAY - Sept 23

Thank you to those who have or are going to sponsor a coffee hour!

Sept 16th Sunday School

Sept 23rd NO SPONSOR

Sept 30th Lakuriqi Family

Oct 7th Kashari Family in memory of Jorgjia (3 years)

Oct 14th Grabocka Family in Memory of Sotir (1 year)

Oct 21st Jim & Paula Bendo

September Giving: A ream of white copy paper