

**The Weekly Messenger – May 24, 2015**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36    Gospel: John 17:1-13*

**The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ** is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter).

Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

- See more at: <http://lent.goarch.org/ascension/learn/#sthash.wyXFopIK.dpuf>

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Deacon Michael Sochka, Jorgjia Kashari, Sandi Fiss, Tranette Ledford, Judye Valliere, Jennie Sappas, Peter Melnik, Semele Halkedis, Peter Mallios, Elaine Quirias, George Robos, Wayne Merkle, Sophie, Clive & Dhimitri Miller, Rosemary Notskas, Kim Burdumy, Leslie Sochka, Andigoni Steffa, Mary Croke, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in Armed Forces.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Ernest & Mary Douris, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

**Coffee Hour Sponsors:** Thank you very much!

May 24<sup>th</sup> Barbara Ames & Ted Douris in memory of their father, Ernie Douris

May 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday School Hot Dog Sale

June 7<sup>th</sup> Xhuljeta Samarxhi – in memory of Gjika

June 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday School – Pizza for the graduation celebration

**June 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Open Dates – No sponsors**

July 5<sup>th</sup> Name Day Grabocka Family

July 12<sup>th</sup> Andrew & Sophia Kozlov

July 19<sup>th</sup> Fiori & Ilirjan Papa

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

**Message from Father Brooks:** Although the Feast of the Ascension fell on Thursday, we are acknowledging it today. It is one of the 12 great feasts on the Orthodox Church calendar. According to Scripture, Jesus was raised by his Father three days after he was crucified. After this, he reappeared on earth and interacted with others for forty days before being taken into Heaven. We celebrate this feast as a great triumph which gives us all hope for the path we have chosen. May we all ascend to greater heights, as human beings and as Christians. Peace to all!

**Memorial Day,** an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, at least, it marks the beginning of summer.

<http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>

**Upcoming Events:**

May 24<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Ascension / 40 Day Memorial for Ernest Douris

Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Blessing of the graves at Fernwood /other cemeteries

Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

May 31<sup>st</sup> Pentecost - Senior Class Luncheon

Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> YAL Meeting 7:00 Church

June 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday school graduation

September 13<sup>th</sup> Gregory E. Costa Golf Classic

November 15<sup>th</sup> Parish Nameday Celebration – Archbishop Nikon will celebrate Liturgy

**Parishioner News:** Congratulations to Chris Mallios, son of Diane & Peter Mallios, who won the Democratic primary election for Common Pleas Court Judge. Chris is a past parish council chair at St. John Chrysostom. Good Luck in the fall election!

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Eralinda Kosova, wife of George Kosova, will be baptized into the Orthodox faith.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Landon Kemp, nephew of William Bortner, will be baptized.

*If you have information you would like to share with our parishioners please email [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*

**Clothing Drive for the Homeless:** Please donate clothing and blankets you no longer use. Bring the items to the church and Linda Notskas will take them to those in need.

**May Giving:** Paper plates