

The Weekly Messenger – May 31, 2015
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

Commemorations for the Living: Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, Deacon Michael Sochka, Marion Merkle, Jorgjia Kashari, Sandi Fiss, Tranette Ledford, Judy 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: 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 31st Sunday school Hot Dog Sale

June 7th Xhuljeta Samarxhi – in memory of Gjika

June 14th Sunday School – Pizza for the Sunday School graduation celebration

June 21st & 28th Open Dates – No sponsors consider joining with a family member or friend to sponsor coffee hour on one of these dates.

July 5th Name Day Grabocka Family

July 12th Andrew & Sophia Kozlov

July 19th Fiori & Ilirjan Papa in honor of Ilirjan & Elias' Nameday

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.

Message from Father Brooks: Today - Pentecost - we celebrate how Christians from all over, who spoke different languages, were all proclaiming the works of God. For some, this is the true beginning of the Christian Church after Jesus had died, was resurrected, and ascended. At Vespers we say the Kneeling Prayers - which we do after the Liturgy. It is the time that we kneel before the King of Glory, and the time when we begin our reverent journey through the year on our way to Pascha once again. May we hold each other in prayer and friendship as we make this journey. Peace to all.

Upcoming Events:

May 31st Pentecost - Senior Class Luncheon

Tuesday, June 2nd Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Friday, June 5th YAL Meeting 7:00 Church

June 14th Sunday school graduation

September 13th Gregory E. Costa Golf Classic

September 24 – 26th Archdiocesan Assembly – Worcester MA.

November 15th Parish Nameday Celebration – Archbishop Nikon will celebrate Liturgy

Parishioner News: Jorgjia Kashari was back in the hospital. She has been having a difficult time these past few months. Please keep Jorgjia and her family in your prayers.

On June 6th, Ermalinda Kosova, wife of George Kosova, will be baptized into the Orthodox faith.

On June 27th, 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

Parish Financial Update: In an effort to keep our parishioners informed as to the state of our financial health, we will be including the monthly and year to date income and expenses for the parish in this Weekly Messenger, as well as in the first or second Messenger each month. Income includes pledges, memorial donations, fund raisers, candle and weekly basket donations. Expenses are much like the expenses in your home: gas, electric, insurance, cleaning, repairs and supplies. A major expense for the Church, which you do not have in your home, is the salary for our priest.

For the month of April our income was \$11,506.00 and our expenses were \$9,601.00 Year to date our income is \$54,815.00 - expenses \$50,475.00. As you can see we are doing ok as our income is greater than our expenses. Unfortunately, a portion of our income has been received in the form of memorial donations, which we receive as a result of the death of a parishioner. We are moving into the summer months, when, historically, our income decreases.

If you would like to receive a complete financial report please send a request to treasurer@stjohnsphila.org