

The Weekly Messenger –September 15, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979
Website: www.stjohnsphila.org
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Gospel - Matthew 19:16-26

If you would like to have someone remembered in prayer or are in need of a Priest please contact Father Brooks Ledford. He may be reached at 210-461-1956 or you may email him fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org

The **Elevation of the Cross**, celebrated on the 14th of September, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.

When we elevate the Cross and bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom "not of this world," and that our only true and enduring citizenship is with the saints in the "city of God" (*Eph 2:19; Heb 11:10; Rev 21-22*).

Thus, at the Elevation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to him by the adoration of his holy feet nailed to the life creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today. (<http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/elevation-of-the-cross>)

Commemorations for the Living: Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Nikon, Father Stephen Siniari, Father John Scollard and the parishioners at St. John the Baptist Albanian Orthodox Church, Father Ken James Stavrevsky, John Croke, Jorgjia Kashari, Brittany Ghicondey, Candace Pepenelli, Ann Gjoka, Mac, Kristin Snow, Madeline Couris-Guarinello, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Francesca Giansante, Pandeli Spiro, Rosemary Notskas, Peter Mallios, Marcena Moore, Flossie Vissar, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all the servicemen especially, Matthew Sherwood (Army-Afghanistan).

Commemorations for the Departed: The Ciko Family, Katherine Zoidis, Dylan Shepherd, Margarita Rubis, Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Sunday School: Today is the first day of Sunday school and a procession for the Elevation of the Cross. Plus Father Brooks will have a special Blessing of Backpacks. Please bring your children and their backpacks!

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Thank you very much!

Sept 15th Ann Gjoka & Linda Notskas - 3 year Memorial Lillian Ghicondy Hartman
Sept 22nd Kashari Family 15 year Memorial Jorgaq Kashari (Jorgjia's husband)
Sept 29th Family of Margarita Rubis – 40 day memorial
Oct 6th Family of Mary Costa Dimitri -1 year memorial
Oct 13th Paula & Jim Bendo

Blessing of Backpacks: Attention everyone who carries backpack or bookbag. On Sunday, September 15th Father Brooks will have a special blessing of the backpacks. Please bring your backpack/book bag to church with you!

Remembering the Ciko Family: Today we remember and pray for Ted and Pauline Ciko. The Ciko family made a donation that was used to start our investment fund. May their memories be eternal!

Parish Council: The secular affairs of the parish are administered by the parish council. The council holds regular monthly meetings and fulfills its duties toward the Archdiocese, toward members of the parish and the community at large. The parish council monitors income and pays expenses incurred by the parish. The parish council cooperates with the priest in making necessary preparations for religious services. Our semi-annual parish meeting and parish council election are scheduled for Nov. 3, 2013. If you are interested in serving on parish council please contact Father Brooks.

Important Dates:

Saturday, September 21st SS Peter & Paul Clam Bake
September 22nd Gregory E. Costa Golf Classic, golf @ 12:00, cocktail hour @ 4:45pm
September 26, 27, 28 Archdiocesan Assembly St. Nicholas Church - New York
September 29th 40 day memorial Margarita Rubis
October 5th Saturday 9:00 am – Fall Cleanup, we have the cleaning supplies and we need your helping hands to make our church sparkle! Altar server workshop
October 6th 1 year Memorial - Mary Costa Dimitri

Only 2 weeks until September 22nd! Tickets are available for *The Gregory E. Costa Golf Classic*, which will be held Sunday, September 22, 2013 at Paxon Hollow Country Club. Cocktail hour begins at 4:45 pm, buffet dinner at 5:45 pm. Tickets for golf and dinner are \$125.00; dinner only \$35.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. For more information or if you plan to attend please contact info@stjohnsphila.org