

The Weekly Messenger – August 1, 2021
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Romans 12:6-14 Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Upcoming Events:

Aug 1st Father Giorgi will celebrate the Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, Aug 3rd Parish Council Meeting via ZOOM at 7:00 pm
Aug 6th Transfiguration
Aug 8th Fotini Shyti, 40-day memorial
Aug 15th Dormition of the Theotokos
Baptism of Vincent Kokalari son of Darien & Blerina Kokalari
Presentation of Nick Naum Scholarship Awards
Sept 23-25 Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly Worcester MA

Coffee Hour If you are able to sponsor an upcoming coffee hour
click: [sign up for coffee hour](#) or sign-up on the sheet posted in the side vestibule at church.

Aug 1st John & Virginia Rubis in Memory of Margarite Rubis
Aug 8th Melnik Family in honor of John's 13th birthday
Piro & Andromaqi Shyti 40-day memorial for Piro's Mother
Aug 15th Kokalari Family in honor of Vincent's Baptism
Aug 22nd No Sponsor Aug 29th No Sponsor Sept 5th No Sponsor

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the 611,500 victims of the Covid-19 virus, George Robos (Donna Dimitri's uncle), Fotini Shyti, Charlie Adams (10 yrs.), (Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living, please email info@stjohnsphila.org*

Commemorations for the Living: Health care workers, First responders, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Archbishop Anastasios, Bishop Daniel, Father Gregory Dudash, Newborn Alexandra, Nino, Father Giorgi, Anastasia, Ioane, Newly illuminated Cora Elizabeth Cosmo, Alexander Cosmo, Laura Johnson, Traci Cosmo, Marc Johnson, Vicki, Hajri Xhoxhaj, Jani Xhoxhi, Dorothy Tomassini, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey's Mother), Joyce & Maurice Robert (Christine Dardaris' Mom & Dad), Lisa Kosta Bowser, Lee Gedremenc, Evangeline Prifti, Virginia Daka, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Welcome to our visitors. 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.

6th Sunday after Pentecost (the paralytic): The Lord desires to see something from man, in order that He might act. It says here: "*He saw their faith*". The paralytic was not able on his own to go to the Lord. For this reason, he was brought by others, and the Lord saw their faith. Still he means here that in some way He also saw the faith of the paralytic. He, the paralytic, would not have come to the Lord if he had not believed. And, immediately, the Lord said: "*Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you*".

On another occasion, Christ said: "*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world*". On this occasion it is as though He were saying: "I am here to **heal** man of his **bodily illness**, but first and foremost to heal him of sin, the sickness of the **soul**". It is a big deal to feel that your sins are forgiven, that God forgives you, and that He has accepted you. Just as your blood circulates through your veins, in this same way you ought to feel God's forgiveness, circulating through you.

Not one of us should have even the smallest **doubt** that if the Lord sees our faith, He will immediately answer and straightway give us His forgiveness, i.e., that which we are seeking. In order though for the Lord to forgive you, you have to arrive at the point of saying: "My God, I do not want to sin anymore."

The Transfiguration of Christ is one of the central events recorded in the gospels. Immediately after the Lord was recognized by His apostles as "the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the Living God," He told them that "He must go up to Jerusalem and suffer many things . . . and be killed and on the third day be raised" (Mt 16). The announcement of Christ's approaching passion and death was met with indignation by the disciples. And then, after rebuking them, the Lord took Peter, James, and John "up to a high mountain"—by tradition Mount Tabor—and was "transfigured before them."



Sunday School Cleanup A very successful day in our Sunday school. The dividers are up creating classrooms and the entire space is sparkling clean! Thank you so very much, Greg & Gregory Dardaris, Kevin Fiss, Adriana, Anastasia & Lilly Kolovani, Michele, Elias, Athanasios & Ariana Sarkos great job!

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Nick Naum Scholarship Recipients:

Gregory Dardaris, son of Christine & Greg Dardaris, Grandson of Bob Dardaris
Caroline Fiss, daughter of Sandi & Bob Fiss and granddaughter of Paula & Jim Bendo
Kevin Fiss, son of Sandi & Bob Fiss and grandson of Paula & Jim Bendo
Amanda Qendro, daughter of Albana & Arjan Qendro and granddaughter of Arsino Qendro.
The Scholarships will be presented August 15th following the Divine Liturgy.

August giving: 4 oz or 8 oz bottles of water.