

The Weekly Messenger – August 15, 2021
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

This Sunday, August 15th we will present Nick Naum Scholarships to the 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.

Upcoming Events:

Aug 15th Dormition of the Theotokos
Presentation of Nick Naum Scholarship Awards
Baptism of Vincent Kokalari son of Darien & Blerina Kokalari following the Liturgy
Thursday, Sept 9th ZOOM Parish Council meeting 7:00 pm
Sept 12th Luncheon to welcome Father Giorgi, Nino and their children to our Parish
Sunday School begins
Sept 19th Margarit Lazi 6-month Memorial
Sept 23-25 Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly Worcester MA
Oct 3rd Thank you luncheon for Father Dennis – Oct 3rd is also Fr. Dennis' Nameday!

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 15th Kokalari Family in honor of Vincent's Baptism
Aug 22nd Jani & Elpiniqi Xhoxhi in honor of Elpiniqi's Birthday
Aug 29th No Sponsor Sept 5th No Sponsor
Sept 12th Luncheon to honor and welcome Father Giorgi and his family
Sept 19th Andrea & Natasha Lazi in memory of Margarit

Sunday School Alert: If you are able to assist with our parish Sunday school program, please let us know. We are in need of teachers. We realize it is very difficult to come to church every Sunday so our plan is to have a number of teachers who will co-teach the classes. You don't have to have an in-depth knowledge of Orthodoxy to be a teacher in Sunday school. We will provide the lessons for each week. Our program needs you to be successful! Email info@stjohnsphila.org

Welcome Home: Wes Hanson & Amy Lewis have moved back to Phila. from Minnesota. We are thrilled they have returned!

The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk11.27–28). <https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/dormition-of-the-theotokos>

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the 620,000 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Skender Elbasani, George Robos, Marc Johnson, Margarite Rubis (8 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, Stephen Petro, 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.

Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar! To our parishioners and friends who celebrate their Nameday in August: 6th Holy Transfiguration (Sotir), August 15th Dormition of the Theotokos (Mary, Maria, Marie)

