

**The Weekly Messenger – August 9, 2020**

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
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*Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17*

*Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34*

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat was in the middle of the sea, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against it. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a spirit!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the mighty wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind became calm. And those in the boat came and worshipped Jesus, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

**Father Stephen Sinairi** (formerly the priest at Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church) has written and published a book *Big in Heaven A Collection of Short Stories* Congratulations Father Stephen! If you are interested in reading this book it can be ordered through the Ancient Faith Website - <https://store.ancientfaith.com/big-in-heaven/> Or you call (800) 967-7377 to place an order.

**Upcoming Events:**

August 1 – 15 Dormition Fast

Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Olivianna Klemp – Bill Bortner's niece

August 9<sup>th</sup> Presentation of Nick Naum Scholarships following the Divine Liturgy

Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> Dormition of the Theotokos will commemorate Sunday Aug 16th

Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Lucas Nadareishvili, son of Ana Melikishvili and

Irakli Nadareishvili

August 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Archbishop Nikon 1 year

**A message from Linda Kosta - Church during the time of Covid 19:**

I have had the privilege of physically attending Liturgy the last two Sundays. Sadly, it seems that most people are afraid to come. The Church Board has done so many things to keep us safe. The Church is immaculate, temperatures are taken, seating is spread apart and more. I certainly felt safer there than in the local grocery store.

It is too easy to get into the habit of not coming or even staying in you PJs and watching it on the screen at home. There is nothing like being there in person. You miss the aromas of the incense and the feeling of being at home with God. I do hope some of you will read this and come next week.

PS. Don't forget to go to our website and sign up. <https://stjohnsphila.org/>

**This Sunday, August 9,** On the Holy Feast-Day of Transfiguration (Metamorphosis) on August 6<sup>th</sup> our tradition calls that the Orthodox Christian faithful bring fruits and even vegetables to be blessed on this day. The most common fruit to be blessed are grapes. The blessing of fruits i.e., grapes, apples, etc., as well as vegetables on this day, is one very beautiful custom of our Holy Church. The practice signifies the final transfiguration of all things in Christ our Savior. "It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the Paradise of God's Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the Glory of the Lord". If you would like to bring fruit and vegetables, Father Dennis will bless the baskets.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Beirut, the over 157,000 victims of Covid-19 virus, Thimi (Jimmy) Daka, Jorgo Polo (1 yr.), Margarite Rubis (7 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*

**Commemorations for the Living:** The Beirut survivors, health care workers, First responders, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Metropolitan Theodosius, Reader Chris Manosis, Linda Turner, Madge Graziani, Colleen Xhoxhi, Father Gregory (Hal) DuDash and the DuDash Family, Newly baptized Olive, her parents, Evisa & Greg, Godfather, Endri, Newborn Sophia, her parents Florina & Drew Garcia, Jim Ghicondey, Karen, Sophia Sarkos (Michele's sister), William Spiro, Lisa Kosta Bowser, Lee Gedremenc, Diane Mallios, Evangeline Prifti, Lisa Kelley, Donna Hlavcek, George Robos, Virginia Daka, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

**Parishioner News:** Congratulations to the Klemp and Bortner families. Father Emmanuel baptized Olivianna Klemp, daughter of Tina and Gabe on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Olivianna's Godfather is Bill Bortner, Godmother Bonnie Lynn Cox. Olivianna is the granddaughter of Lee and Irene Gedremenc and +Randall & Vickie Klemp. Many Years to all!