

The Weekly Messenger – September 12, 2021
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26*

Upcoming Events:

- Sept 12th Luncheon to welcome Father Giorgi, Nino and their children to our Parish
Sunday School registration- Blessing of the Backpacks Procession for the
Elevation of the Holy Cross
- Sept 14th Elevation of the Holy Cross – we will celebrate this Feast Day on Sept 12th.
- 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!
- Oct 17th Baptism of Carson Delussey son of Edlira Tegu & Kevin Delussey
- Oct 23rd Baptism of Gabriel Shomos Smith son of Elena Shomos & Zach Smith

Coffee Hour If you are able to sponsor an upcoming coffee hour **The following dates are in need of sponsors: Oct 17th, Nov 28th, Dec 12th, Dec 26th** All other dates have been filled.

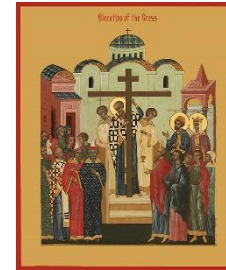
- CLICK: [sign up for coffee hour](#)** or sign-up on the sheet posted in the side vestibule at church
- Sept 12th Luncheon to honor and welcome Father Giorgi and his family
 - Sept 19th Andrea & Natasha Lazi in memory of Margarit
 - Sept 26th Sunday School Hot Dog Sale Oct 3rd Thank-you Luncheon for Father Dennis
 - Oct 10th Jim & Paula Bendo **Oct 17th OPEN NO SPONSOR**
 - Oct 24th Elena Shomos & Zach Smith in honor of Gabriel's baptism

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the victims of the 911 terrorist attack, the 655,000 victims of the Covid-19 virus, Joseph Stefani, Skender Elbasani, George Robos, Marc Johnson, 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, the victims of the 911 terrorist attack and their families, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus, Archbishop Anastasios, Father Gregory Dudash, Olimbi Grabocka, Aleksander Pallko, Marie Fiss, Kim, Stephen Petro, Vicki, Jani Xhoxhi, Hajri Xhoxhaj, 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.

September giving: snacks for Sunday school

The Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross: A week before the feast day of the Universal Elevation of the Holy Cross, the Orthodox Church prepares the faithful through Scriptural readings, prayer and acts of good deeds to celebrate the event of the finding of the precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Among the many symbols of the Christian Faith the Holy Cross is considered the most important. It is the symbol of Christianity. It is the symbol of Christ's victory over death. It is the weapon against all evil forces. It is the power of the Saints. It is the flag under which the righteous fought against Satan. September 14th is the date for The Elevation of the Holy Cross.



This Sunday September 12th we will have a “**Blessing of the Backpacks**” following the Divine Liturgy. All students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church. It is a great way to begin the school year! This will be the first time Father Giorgi will “Bless the Backpacks”. He is looking forward to this event and we hope many students and their families attend! Following the Blessing of the Backpacks the students will process around the church for the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

Did You Hear Father Giorgi's VOICE MESSAGE sent via email??? He spoke about the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos. If you didn't hear it check the inbox of your email!

Home Blessings Are Back!! In recognition of the fact that we have not had home blessings for over 3 years, Father Giorgi is going to begin blessing homes in October. You can contact him directly to arrange a date for him to visit your home. 914-888-4221 or email fr.giorgi@stjohnsphila.org Father Giorgi looks forward to blessing your home and getting to know you and your family!

Thank you, Luncheon for Father Dennis, – Sunday October 3rd Father Dennis will celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us and we will have a luncheon/coffee hour in his honor. We are asking our parishioners to make their special dish to share with all at the luncheon. Please join us as we thank Father Dennis for his service over the past 2 years.

Sunday School: We have a new Sunday School Director! Amy Lewis has volunteered to coordinate our Sunday School program this year. THANKS Amy!! Sunday school classes are scheduled to begin October 3rd. The students will be required to wear masks during Sunday school classes (as they do in public and private school). We have plenty of room in the Sunday school area. There is a brand-new floor (no more rug), the walls have been painted and all tables and chairs were cleaned, as have all Sunday school supplies. Students should proceed to Sunday school following Holy Communion. They will rejoin their parents at coffee hour. Please bring your children to church so they can attend Sunday school and learn more about their Orthodox faith.