The Weekly Messenger – August 14, 2022
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-563-0979
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Epistle: Corinthians 3:9-17 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Upcoming Events:

August 15th Dormition of the Theotokos
Saturday, Aug 20th Baptism of Aria Campbell, daughter of Isabella Campbell 10:00 am
Sept 11th Sunday School Begins, Blessing of the Backpacks and Ice-Skating Outing
Sept 23rd – 24th Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly St. Nicholas Church Jamaica Estates, NY

Coffee Hour Sponsor:
Aug 14th Liya Gendler **Aug 21st** Paula & Jim Bendo **Aug 28th** ***No Sponsor***

Commemorations for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, the victims of the Covid-19 virus, Bill Spiro, Matushka Anne Hopko, Atanasio Vince Formosa (Deacon Andrew's Godson), Margaret Rubis (9 yrs.), Nikolas Theokary (21 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

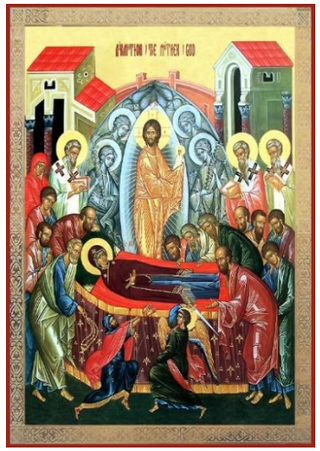
Commemorations for the Living*:* Health care workers, first responders, people in Ukraine, those suffering from the Covid-19 virus, Dodona & Pandeli Papa, the Papa Family, Newborn Anthony Albino Salerno, Athena and Andonetta Theokary, Vicki, Helen, Julius, Laura, Tracey, Juwon, Virginia Daka, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey's Mother), and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces. ***If you have a name for the departed or commemorations list, please email info@stjohnsphila.org***

Parishioner News: Congratulations to Andonetta Theokary who welcomed a new grandson, Anthony Albino Salerno, born July 28th, 8lbs 2.5 oz., 20" long. Mom, (Athena), Dad and Anthony are all doing great. Very happy Grandmother Andonetta is thrilled! We wish the entire Theokary/Salerno Family Many Years!

Sunday School: FIRST DAY - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11th: It's the beginning of the school year, and what a first day it will be. A party for kids of all ages. We'll start with the blessing of the backpacks by Father Dennis, pizza party during coffee hour and ice skating at the Penn Class of 1923 Rink from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. This is a critical time for our Sunday school program. We encourage you to bring your children/grandchildren/Godchildren/nieces, nephews, friends. Sunday school begins after Holy Communion and lasts about 30 minutes. Your children join you during coffee hour. If we don't have children and teachers, we will not have a Sunday school program. If you would like to help out, please contact Fiori Papa, **sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org**

Ninth 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."

August 15th 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

Welcome to our visitors. The members of our Parish Council, and our church community 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.

Monthly Giving August Bottles of Water ***Thank you for serving today, Father Dennis!***