

**The Weekly Messenger – August 28, 2022**

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

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**Epistle: I Corinthians 9:2-12 Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Aug 28<sup>th</sup>** Special Parish Meeting to vote on the roof replacement project

**Sept 8<sup>th</sup>** Nativity of the Theotokos (Prayers on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>)

**Sept 11<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School Begins, Blessing of the Backpacks and Ice-Skating Outing

**Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Procession on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>)

**Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>** Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly St. Nicholas Church Jamaica Estates, NY

**Coffee Hour Sponsor:**

**Aug 28<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Sept 4<sup>th</sup> No Sponsor Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday School**

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon (3 yrs.), the victims in Ukraine, the victims of the Covid-19 virus, Metropolitan Kallistos, Bill Spiro, Matushka Anne Hopko, Dylan Shepherd (9 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, Newly illuminated Aria Marie, her parents, Isabella & Rich, godparents, Maria Gjidede, Evan Weiss, Jackie Campbell, Dodona & Pandeli Papa, the Papa Family, Newborn Sofia, Jola, Gjergji, Dhimitri Gjogu, Newborn Anthony Albino Salerno, Athena and Andonetta Theokary, Julius, Vicki, Helen, Julius, Laura, Tracey, Juwon, Virginia Daka, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey's Mother), and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

**Sunday School: FIRST DAY - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>** We'll start with the blessing of the backpacks by Father Emmanuel, pizza party during coffee hour and ice skating at the Penn Class of 1923 Rink from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. 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](mailto:sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org)

**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**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:** A man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith, even as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day."

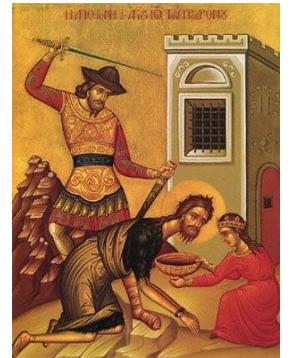
**The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John Commemorated on August 29**

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.



**Thank you for serving today, Father Dennis!**