

The Weekly Messenger – August 5, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: I Corinthians 4:9-16 Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

The Transfiguration of Christ is one of the central events recorded in the gospels. Immediately after the Lord was recognized by His apostles as “the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the Living God,” He told them that “He must go up to Jerusalem and suffer many things . . . and be killed and on the third day be raised” (Mt 16). The announcement of Christ’s approaching passion and death was met with indignation by the disciples. And then, after rebuking them, the Lord took Peter, James, and John “up to a high mountain”—by tradition Mount Tabor—and was “transfigured before them.”

The feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated on the sixth of August, probably for some historical reason. The summer celebration of the feast, however, has lent itself very well to the theme of transfiguration. The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God’s unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord. We will celebrate Transfiguration today, August 5, 2018.

<https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/transfiguration>

Blessing of the Fruit: As it is a past custom, Father Brooks will bless grapes and other Fruits - brought in by our parishioners - following the Divine Liturgy.

Outdoor Liturgy and Church Picnic: Sunday, August 26, 2018 at Neshaminy State Park. We will meet at 12:00 pm and celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Following the Liturgy, we will gather for a picnic. Food, music, dancing, games, a day of fun! Bring a friend.



Congratulations to the 2018 recipients of the Nick Naum Scholarship. Kevin Fiss, son of Sandi & Bob Fiss, Adam Coraluzzi and Michele Coraluzzi, son & daughter of Diane & Steve Coraluzzi. Kevin will be attending Temple University, Adam will be sophomore at Monmouth University and Michele will be a sophomore at Delaware County Community College. Many Years!



Diane with Metropolitan Tikhon.

OCA 19th All- American Council was in St. Louis last week. Diane Lescas & Donna Dimitri were the representatives for our parish. They also attended a brief Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly meeting. At the All-American Council the Albanian Archdiocese and the Diocese of New England presented a video. You can view the video on our website <https://www.stjohnsphila.org> A full report will be given at our semi-annual meeting. To learn more about the OCA visit <https://oca.org/>

Commemorations for the Departed: Christine Stavrou, Wayne Merkle, Lilly Shallapi, Jorgjia Kashari (2 yrs.), Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Commemorations for the Living: Madge Graziani, Donna Hlavcek, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living please email info@stjohnsphila.org

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Please check the sign-up sheet in the vestibule and pick a date or visit our website and signup online: <https://teamup.com/ksqta3sqv6k1qvr2o7>

The following dates have no sponsors: Sept 2nd Sept 30th Oct 28th Nov 4th and Dec 30th.

Thank you to those who have or are going to sponsor a coffee hour!

August 5th Linda Kosta in memory of Harry’s 100th Birthday

August 12th Marinela Prifti

August 19th Sergio & Colleen 40-year Memorial

August 26th Liturgy in the Park

Upcoming Events:

Aug 5th At the Divine Liturgy we will celebrate Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Aug 13th Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Aug 14th Vespersal Liturgy – Dormition of the Theotokos 7:00 pm followed by pot luck

Aug 19th Wedding of Costina Bacuta & Michael Morrison 1:00 pm

Aug 26th Divine Liturgy & Church Picnic Neshaminy State Park 12:00 pm

Saturday Sept 15th Church clean-up day 10:00 am and

Charity & Benevolence prep for Sunday Sept 16th