

The Weekly Messenger – May 7, 2017

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

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Epistle: Acts 9:32-42 Gospel: John 5:1-15

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

KRISHTI U NGJALL! VERTET U NGJALL!

The fourth Sunday of Holy Jesus healed the Paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, located near the Sheep's Gate of Jerusalem, where people sacrificed their beasts and washed their insides. The pool had five sides, with a porch and arch on each. A number of people, afflicted with various diseases, passed through them, waiting at the water for an angel to come down and stir it. Once it moved, whoever stepped into the water first was instantly healed. One poor man, whose story is recounted in today's Gospel lection in the Divine Liturgy, waited 38 years for someone to lower him into the water, because he was unable to move into the water himself. However, the Savior merely commanded the man to get up and walk, and he was healed. http://www.antiochian.org/paralytic_sunday

One wonders sometimes about why the Gospel story of the healing of the paralytic was chosen for the Paschal season. One understands why the stories of Thomas and the Myrrh-bearers were chosen, but the paralytic? Perhaps our incomprehension is rooted in our modern separation of Pascha from baptism. In the early Church from at least the time of Tertullian (d. 220), Pascha was considered as *the* time for baptism, and the spectacle of many catechumens lining up to be baptized in the baptistery (a separate building in those days) and then processing with solemn joy into the church to be anointed with laying on of hands by the bishop forged an indelible link in people's minds between Pascha and baptism. Even now in our Pascha-night Liturgy, in place of the Trisagion hymn we sing "As many as have been baptized into Christ." In early tradition, Pascha meant baptism and baptism always had a paschal feel to it. The two were inextricably linked.

Read more: <https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-lawrence-farley/the-paralytic-and-the-pool>

Please send information about the graduates in your family, College, High School, 8th Grade. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. Please send an email to info@stjohnsphila.org Include the name of the graduate and the school from which they graduated. For 8th grade let us know what high school they will be attending next year, HS grads if they are attending college, the name of the college, or what they will be pursuing. College graduates, their degree and plans for the future. We would also like the proud parents and grandparents names. Thank-you!

Our Sincere Thanks to our Parishioners and Friends who generously made donations to St. John's in honor of Pascha!

John Melnik – Annual Buddy Walk: NEXT SATURDAY Team Brother John looks forward to another great Buddy Walk this year. Please come out to do the walk, have some fun and picnic with us under the Brother John tent. Susan, Vlad, Juliana and John are always looking for new faces to join as they celebrate together. It is **Saturday, May 13th from 1-4pm**. Hopefully more people will be able to walk since it is on a Saturday this year! See Susan or Vlad Melnik in church or click on this link: <http://secure.dsadelaware.org/BuddyWalk/BuddiesAndTeams/Team.aspx?TeamID=814>

Commemorations for the Departed: Jorgjia Kashari, 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: Elida, Roxane Ghicondey, Jim Ghicondey, Richard Moon, Paul Dimitri, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Zoidis, John Kolea, Jr., William Spiro, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Katherine Halkedis, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Kim Burdumy, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Coffee Hour Sponsors: Please take a look at the sign-up sheet and pick a date!!

May 7th Outreach Committee

May 14th Kosova Family

May 21st Koco & Mimoza Priftanji

May 28th Fjorentina Lakuriqi & Ilir Gremi (1 year wedding anniversary)

June 4th Sunday School

June 11th Greta Dilo

Upcoming Events:

May 7th Bring a Friend to Church Day

May 14th Mother's Day

Thursday May 24th Ascension Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

May 28th Youth group luncheon and book discussion

Monday May 29th Memorial Day Father Brooks will bless the graves at Fernwood & Lawnview

June 4th Pentecost - We will also have Sunday school graduation and swim party

Per Shume Vjet, Gezuar! To our parishioners who celebrate Namedays in May: 5th Great Martyr Irene, 9th Martyr Christopher, May 12th St. Thomas the Apostle, May 21st Ss Constantine & Helen, May 30th Isaacius of Dalmatus.

May Monthly Giving: Paper plates. Thank you for the donations of paper towels and toilet paper last month!