

The Weekly Messenger – September 10, 2017
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
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Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: John 3:13-17

The Sunday before the feast day of the 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 Saviour 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. Read more: <http://pemptousia.com/2017/09/sunday-before-the-elevation-of-the-holy-cross-john-313-17/>

Gregory E Costa Golf Outing: We are asking for donations of items to make gift baskets or a donation of a gift basket for our Albanian Auction. If you have something to donate please bring it to church by September 18th. We will also gratefully accept any donated gift baskets. The 10th Gregory E Costa golf outing is set for Sunday, October 1, 2017. Golf and dinner \$125.00. Dinner tickets \$40.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. We will have a 50/50 and our annual Albanian Auction. Contact info@stjohnsphila.org

Commemorations for the Departed: Tom Zoidis, Ted Lescas, Alan, 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: The people living on the Texas coast and in Houston, Newlywed Florina Bacuta & Drew Garcia, Newlywed Marsel & Jonida Karemani, Newly Illuminated Elena Shomos, Zach Smith, Margarita, Larry Jance, Sara, Michael Cosmo, Wayne Merkle, Richard Moon, Elizabeth Jones, 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.

Welcome to our visitors. Father Brooks, 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

Sunday school News: TODAY, Father Brooks will have a "*Blessing of the Backpacks*" following the Divine Liturgy. Please bring your children and have them bring their backpacks. It is a great way to begin the school year! The children will also register for Sunday school. **FIRST DAY OF CLASS:** Sunday, Sept. 17. Also on Sept 17th the children will participate in the procession for the Elevation of the Cross. If you would like to help – in any way- with our Sunday school program please contact Father Brooks or Director Steve Coraluzzi <mailto:sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org>

Parishioner News: Congratulations to expectant parents Fjori Lakuriqi and Ilir Gremi. Their baby is due in December. Fjori is the daughter of Andon & Miranda Lakuriqi.

Congratulations to George Prifti. Now that school is back in session he is Officially Retired!! George was a school teacher for many years. Enjoy your retirement!

Happy Birthday to Jamie Ledford (Sept 11th) and Happy Anniversary to Father Books & Jamie, -33rd wedding anniversary (Sept 12th). Many Years to all!

Coffee Hour Sponsors: ALL COFFEE HOUR DATES HAVE BEEN FILLED
Our sincere thanks to all who have or are going to sponsor a coffee hour this year.

September 3rd Marinela Prifti
September 10th Quinn/Zoidis Families in memory of Tom
September 17th Sunday School
September 24th Andon & Miranda Lakuriqi
October 1st Marjana Kokalari
October 8th Kashari/ Salavaci/Prifti families in memory Jorgjia 2 years

Upcoming Events:

Sept 10th Tom Zoidis 40 day memorial
Blessing of the Backpacks and Sunday School registration
Tuesday Sept 12th Stewardship Meeting 7:30 pm
Thursday Sept 14th Charity & Benevolence Meeting 7:00 pm
Saturday Sept 16th Sunday school teacher's workshop 9-11 am
Sept 17th Elevation of the Cross and 1st Day of Sunday school
Friday Sept 22nd Archdiocesan Assembly hosted by our Parish /Dinner in church hall
Saturday Sept 23rd Thanksgiving service and brunch in church hall
Tuesday Sept 26th Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
Oct 1st Gregory E Costa Golf Classic and dinner – Paxon Hollow Country Club
October 8th Memorial Jorgjia Kashari
October 22nd Semi-annual parish meeting during coffee hour

September Giving: A ream of white copy paper. Thanks to those who donated snacks for our Sunday school students last month.