

The Weekly Messenger – September 2, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Father Brooks Ledford Office: 215-563-0979 or fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org
Website: <https://www.stjohnsphila.org>
Email address: info@stjohnsphila.org

Epistle: II Corinthians 1:21-24, 2:1-4 Gospel: Matthew 22:2-14

Happy Anniversary: Father Brooks began his ministry at St. John Chrysostom on September 1, 2013. We are very thankful Father Brooks and Jamie came back to our parish and we look forward too many future anniversaries.

Commemorations for the Departed: Brad Mayo (Bob Flanagan's son-in-law), Christine Stavrou, 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: Newlywed Costina Bacuta & Michael Morrison, Jane, 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

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Sept 8th Nativity of the Theotokos Liturgy @ 10:00 am

Sept 9th Blessing of the Backpacks

Sept 11th -15th Father Brooks out of town

Saturday Sept 15th Church clean-up day 10:00 am and Charity & Benevolence prep for Sunday Sept 16th

Sept 16th Elevation of the Cross and first day of Sunday School

Sept 19th – 21st OCA Metropolitan Council Meeting Syosset NY

Sept 20th Archdiocesan Teleconference

September Namedays Për shumë vjet!

September 5 th	Saint Zachariah	September 14 th	Elevation of the Cross
September 5 th	Saint Elizabeth	September 17 th	Saint Stavros
September 9 th	Saint Anna	September 17 th	Martyr Sophia

September Giving: A ream of white copy paper

Liturgy & Picnic in the Park: About 60 parishioners and friends gathered at Neshaminy State Park last Sunday to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and fellowship. Following the beautiful Liturgy we feasted on wonderful homemade treats which everyone shared! It was a special day. Photos are posted on our website. Take a look! <https://stjohnsphila.org/public/ss/gallery.php?ssid=447&s=0#>

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

We have only two dates with NO SPONSOR: Sept 23 and Nov 4th

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

Sept. 2nd Donna Dimitri

Sept 9th Bill Bortner

Sept 16th Sunday School

Sept 23rd NO SPONSOR

Sept 30th Lakuriqi Family

Oct 7th Kashari Family in memory of Jorgjia (3 years)

Oct 14th Grabocka Family in Memory of Sotir (1 year)

Sunday School News: Sunday Sept. 9th, 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! If you would like to help – in any way- with our Sunday school program please contact Father Brooks fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org or Director Steve Coraluzzi sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org

Church Clean-up September 15th @ 10:00 am In two weeks plan to help out as we have our annual fall clean-up day at church. We only need an hour or two of your time. This is an opportunity to give your time and talent – make our church shine! We will supply the cleaning supplies – all we need is YOU!

The Charity & Benevolence Committee sent a letter to all parishioners. If you haven't received the letter please contact Sandi Fiss. Upcoming events: **September 15th--3pm** "the making of the sandwiches" please come or stay after cleaning the church to help out. We especially encourage the Sunday school kids to attend. **September 16th--**"Taking up our cross" give-away event.

Stewardship update: Through Aug 31, 2018 we have received pledges totaling . Of that total we have received \$.00. Our budget for pledges was \$60,000.00. Just like you have at home, every month, the church has fixed expenses: insurance, priest salary, pension payments, phone and internet, candles, etc. We need your support. If you haven't made a pledge for 2018, please do! Thank you very much to those who have pledged. You can submit your pledge online <https://stjohnsphila.org/pledge.html>