

**The Weekly Messenger – September 9, 2018**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
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*Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18      Gospel: John 3:13-17*

**Nativity of the Theotokos** In addition to the celebration of the Annunciation, there are three major feasts in the Church honoring Mary, the Theotokos. The first of these is the feast of her nativity which is kept on the eighth of September. The record of the birth of Mary is not found in the Bible. The traditional account of the event is taken from the apocryphal writings which are not part of the New Testament scriptures. The traditional teaching which is celebrated in the hymns and verses of the festal liturgy is that Joachim and Anna were a pious Jewish couple who were among the small and faithful remnant— “the poor and the needy”—who were awaiting the promised messiah. The couple was old and childless. They prayed earnestly to the Lord for a child, since among the Jews barrenness was a sign of God’s disfavor. In answer to their prayers, and as the reward of their unwavering fidelity to God, the elderly couple was blessed with the child who was destined, because of her own personal goodness and holiness, to become the Mother of the Messiah-Christ. Read more: <https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/nativity-of-the-theotokos>

**Parishioner News:** Belated congratulations and best wishes to our own Linda Biando, who officially retired from her job with the State of NJ, EHDI Unit. For 30 years Linda was involved with screening newborns for hearing loss. We wish Linda and Dave (retired in February from the Phila School District) much happiness in their retired life. **Gëzuar!!**

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Brad Mayo (Bob Flanagan’s son-in-law), Christine Stavrou, 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:** Marinela Prifti & Fred Tsapournas, 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](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)*

**September Giving:** A ream of white copy paper

**Upcoming Events:**

Sept 9<sup>th</sup> Blessing of the Backpacks  
Sept 11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Father Brooks out of town  
Saturday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Church clean-up day 10:00 am and Charity & Benevolence prep for Sunday Sept 16th  
Sept 16<sup>th</sup> Elevation of the Cross and first day of Sunday School  
Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 pm  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> OCA Metropolitan Council Meeting Syosset NY  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Archdiocesan Teleconference  
Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Semi-annual Parish meeting following the Divine Liturgy

**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>*

**We have only two dates with NO SPONSOR: Sept 23 and Nov 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

Sept 9<sup>th</sup> Bill Bortner

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday School

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> NO SPONSOR

Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Lakuriqi Family

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> Kashari Family in memory of Jorgjia (3 years)

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Grabocka Family in Memory of Sotir (1 year)

**Sunday School News:** If you would like to help – in any way- with our Sunday school program please contact Father Brooks [fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org) or Director Steve Coraluzzi [sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:sundayschooldirector@stjohnsphila.org)

**Church Clean-up September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am Next Saturday** plan to help out as we have our annual fall clean-up day at church. Linda Kosta has a list of tasks to complete. We only need an hour or two of your time. There will be indoor tasks and outdoor tasks. 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 August 31, 2018 we have received 79 pledges totaling \$43,422.00. Of that total we have received \$25,053.00. 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>