

**The Weekly Messenger – August 4, 2024**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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**This Week Epistle: Romans 12:6-14 Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8**

**Next Week Epistle: Romans 15<sup>th</sup> 1-7 Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Monday, Aug 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm** Vespers Liturgy for Transfiguration

**Tuesday, Aug 6<sup>th</sup>** Transfiguration

**Aug 11<sup>th</sup>** Presentation of the Nick Naum Scholarship Awards

**Monday, Aug 12<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting 7<sup>00</sup> [m via ZOOM

**Wednesday, Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm** Vespers Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos

**Thursday, Aug 15<sup>th</sup>** Dormition of the Theotokos

**Friday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>** Archdiocesan Assembly @ Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

With the grace of God, the Archdiocese looks forward to V. Rev. Dennis Rhodes receiving monastic tonsure following the Assembly on Friday evening.

**Saturday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>** Archdiocesan Divine Liturgy @ Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

With the grace of God, the Archdiocese looks forward to Dn. Juxhin's ordination at the Liturgy of our annual assembly this September.

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, Protopresbyter Arthur Liolin, Chancellor Emeritus of the Albanian Archdiocese, Priftëresha Olga, Archpriest John Scollard, the victims in Gaza and Israel, the victims in Ukraine, Sotir Suli, Maurice Robert, Eilzabeth Jones (5 yrs.), Jorgo Polo (5 yrs.), Nikolas Theokary (23 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

**Commemorations for the Living:** His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim, Father Joseph Ciarciaglino, the people in Gaza and Israel, the people in Ukraine, Newborn Adelina Kasapi and her parents Bland & Linnea Kasapi, Reader Chris Manosis, Jimmy Kosta, Michael Dardaris, Lee Constantine Elia, Rosalyn Rawls, Virginia Rubis, Teri Douris, Ellen Mondlak, Gerald Mondlak, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Virginia Daka, and 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@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

**We need Coffee Hour Sponsors for August and Sept. Please sponsor a coffee with your family or friends:** sign-up on the sheet or click this link [CoffeeHourSignup](#)

**Aug 4<sup>th</sup>** Ia & Father Kai

**Aug 11<sup>th</sup>** Melnik Family in honor of John's 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Aug 18<sup>th</sup>** Shyti Family

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup>** Liya

**Sept 15<sup>th</sup> No Sponsor**

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** Father Dennis & Sarah in memory of Jonathan Rhodes

**Aug 25<sup>th</sup>** Hot Dogs

**Sept 8<sup>th</sup> No Sponsor**

**Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> No sponsor**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew (the paralytic):** The Lord desires to see something from man, in order that He might act. It says here: "*He saw their faith*". The paralytic was not able on his own to go to the Lord. For this reason, he was brought by others, and the Lord saw their faith. Still, he means here that in some way He also saw the faith of the paralytic. He, the paralytic, would not have come to the Lord if he had not believed. And, immediately, the Lord said: "*Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you*".

On another occasion, Christ said: "*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world*". On this occasion it is as though He were saying: "I am here to **heal** man of his **bodily illness**, but first and foremost to heal him of sin, the sickness of the **soul**". It is a big deal to feel that your sins are forgiven, that God forgives you, and that He has accepted you. Just as your blood circulates through your veins, in this same way you ought to feel God's forgiveness, circulating through you.

Not one of us should have even the smallest **doubt** that if the Lord sees our faith, He will immediately answer and straightway give us His forgiveness, i.e., that which we are seeking. In order though for the Lord to forgive you, you have to arrive at the point of saying: "My God, I do not want to sin anymore."



**Father Kai will celebrate the Feast of Transfiguration with a Vespers Liturgy on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6<sup>00</sup> pm** The Transfiguration of Christ (August 6<sup>th</sup>,) 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."

In the Transfiguration, the apostles see the glory of the Kingdom of God present in majesty in the person of Christ they see that "in Him, indeed, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell," that "in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (Col 1.19, 2.9). They see this before the crucifixion so that in the resurrection they might know Who it is Who has suffered for them, and what it is that this one, Who is God, has prepared for those who love Him. This is what the Church celebrates in the feast of the Transfiguration.

**Congratulations to the Dukaj Family:** Nicholas, son of Altin & Ciljeta and brother of Emile, was baptized on June 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Agia Triada in Pefkas Thessaloniki Greece, by Father Kostandinos Vletsis. Many Years to the entire Dukaj Family!



**Per Shume Vjet! Gezuar!** To our parishioners and friends who celebrate their Nameday in August: 6<sup>th</sup> Holy Transfiguration (Sotir), August 15<sup>th</sup> Dormition of the Theotokos (Mary, Maria, Marie)

**Monthly Giving for August –Paper Towels**