

THE ORTHODOX POST

November 2005
Volume 1, Issue 1



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432

Web site: www.stnicholasalbanian.org E-mail: snickny@aol.com Tel: 718 380-5684

Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Dear Friends,

November is the time we usually reflect on what it means to be good stewards of all that God has given to us. I offer a few quotes from St. John Chrysostom's sermons on the Rich Man and the Poor Man, Lazarus.

"Let us learn from [Lazarus] not to call the rich lucky nor the poor unfortunate. Rather, if we are to tell the truth, the rich man is not the one who has collected many possessions but the one who needs few possessions; and the poor man is not the one who has no possessions but the one who has many desires."

"Therefore let us use our goods sparingly, as belonging to others, so that they may become our own. How shall we use them sparingly, as belonging to others? When we do not spend them beyond our needs, and do not spend for our needs only, but give equal shares into the hands of the poor. If you are affluent, but spend more than you need, you will give an account of the

President's Message

By Lou Foundos

By the time you read this article, the Daughters of St. Nicholas Rummage and Bake Sale will have passed and hopefully, been a real success. I want to thank all of the people, especially the ladies for all their hard work. As I indicated in previous articles, fund raisers like this are not an option, but a necessity to balancing our budget.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Father David's Message	1
President's Message	1
Daughter's Corner	2
Religious Education	2
Church Activities & Community News	3
Archdiocese & OCA News	5
This Month's Major Feast Day	5
Major Events & Sunday Ushers' List	6

funds which were entrusted to you."

"[W]hen you see on earth the man who has encountered the shipwreck of poverty, do not judge him, do not seek an account of his life, but free him from his misfortune. Why do you make trouble for yourself? God has excused you from all officiousness and meddlesomeness. How much most of us would complain, if God has bidden us first to examine each person's life exactly, to interfere with his behavior and his deeds, and only then to give alms? but as it is we are freed from all this kind of annoyance. Then why do we bring excessive cares on ourselves? A judge is one thing, an almsgiver is another. Charity is so called because we give it even to the unworthy."

Please see *Pastor's Message* on page 4

We will have our annual raffle at the St. Nicholas Day luncheon. This will be a 50/50 raffle; and if we can do what we have done in the past, the goal is to have a first prize of about \$2000. However, in order for the raffle to be successful, we all have to do our share. Please support the raffle as best you can, and more important, help by selling the chances to friends and neighbors.

Please see *President's Message* on page 4

Daughters' Corner

By Christina Liolin

The Daughters held a planning meeting on Sunday, October 16, 2005 to finalize arrangements for the Bake Sale/Rummage Sale on Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30. By the time you read this, the event will already be over. There will be a full report on the Flea Market in next month's bulletin.

Over the past year, the Daughters have made contributions to the IOCC Christmas Stocking, 2 orphanages in Albania, as well as the House of Hope and the Tsunami Fund.

We pay for many of the Sunday School supplies and

Religious Education

Adult Education: Wednesdays 7:30–8:45 p.m.

Over the last several weeks, a group of about a dozen of us have been slowly going through *The Mountain of Silence*, an excellent introduction to the Orthodox Faith. I know many have bought this book, and have spoken to me about it.

We have tried to understand what it means to know God by experience, what a monk or nun is, what the heart is, and how we can actually, by experience, live with God, and how we can turn tough experiences into opportunities for spiritual development. Sometimes we read tough passages together, sometimes we take fun 'tests' but always, we attempt to answer the question: how can I put this information into practice in my life. There has been good discussion by class participants. Our next session will take place October 26, when we will discuss the "illnesses of the heart." Even if you have not come before, all are invited. **IF YOU ARE PREPARING TO BECOME BAPTIZED OR IF YOU ARE PREPARING TO BAPTIZE A CHILD, YOU NEED TO ATTEND THIS CLASS.**

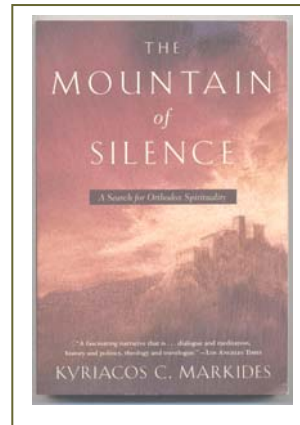


Daughters'

Bake Sale

provide robes for the altar boys. Every year on St. Nicholas Day, we present a check to our Church as a contribution to the Operating Fund.

Throughout the year we have some fund raising events to help raise money to support our charitable efforts. We also rely on the generosity of our parishioners who, from time to time, will make monetary contributions.



An Excellent Introduction to the

Orthodox Faith

Sunday School: Our Sunday School program has taken a step forward this year. First, the teachers spent the first few weeks of fall preparing their classes, cleaning up, taking inventory, making the classes as nice as possible for our children. We have added teachers and classes. Tina Peters is helping Alexandra Liolin with the 5–7th Grades. Jim Oswald is helping Barbara Duggan with the 3–4th Grade Class. Prifteresha Kerri Fox is teaching a K–2nd Grade Class. Carlos and Maria Matute have put together an excellent curriculum for the fall, and have held a class, which three of our high school youth attended.

Please see *Sunday School* on page 4

Church Activities

By Albert Foundos

Golf Outing Fund Raiser: The 8th Annual Golf Outing started out a bit iffy with the weather threatening, but St. Nicholas held up the rain until we were all inside the dining room so we have to consider it a huge success. We had a good compliment of golfers with many trying to win a BMW with a hole in one with \$10,000.00 cash as well, but unfortunately no one was successful in this endeavor. We all tried hard but the odds were all against us. Peter Panajoti and Tom McDonagh were the observers on the hole so with two honest guys like that, you really have to get it in to win. Roland Llupa was responsible for obtaining the hole in one BMW by his company, DeFeo BMW. We thank him for his efforts in doing that, especially since he drove it all the way from New Jersey and back.

The Golf Outing is of course a very important fund raiser for our Church which takes a lot of effort and hopefully next year we will have a new crew in making sure this is a success again. Besides the arrangements for the golf game itself, we have Tee



A Great Time was had by all.

sponsors, prize donors and the chasing after the golf players themselves in order to make things happen. It takes about three months of concentrated effort and a lot of communication to bring the outing to a successful conclusion and of course the weather we leave to St. Nicholas to protect us. This year we had a great financial success, netting over \$15,000. Since we must fund raise about \$25,000 each year to balance the budget, the golf outing is very important to the financial health of the parish and must be one of several fund raisers.

We want to thank all the Tee sponsors, prize donors, and people that worked to obtain ads to make this happen. We missed Fr. David this year due to Parish duties but we're counting on him for next year.

Community News

The Orthodox Post: The St. Nicholas Church monthly newsletter is getting a "New-Look". Parishioners and Friends will be receiving issues at the beginning of each month. For those who ask, it can be sent out via email. Also, it will be placed on the Church's web site. Managing content and production are Co-Editors John Jance and Bill Peters. They are helped by Erald Troja for web site support, Linda Foundos, Adelina Llupa and Irma Mile for community news reporting, and Andrea Topore for printing and distribution.

The Orthodox Post is everyone's newsletter, so provide news and important information to the reporter, editors or Father David.

Weddings: Congratulations to Dr. Perikli and Kozara Sheti on the marriage of their daughter Eva to Robert McKinney on September 17th. We wish them all the best as they begin their new life together. Wedding bells rang on September 23rd for Ivan Kondili and Nevila Koprencka. Our congratulations to Ivan's parents, Lena and Fotaq Kondili. We wish Ivan and Nevila a life filled with much happiness.

Baptisms: Many blessings on the Guma family. On October 8th, Dhimo happily witnessed the baptism of his wife, Marsella (baptized Victoria), and their two sons Ilios (Elia) and Teddi (Theodore). The proud sponsors were Nasi Pavllo and Ilia Luka. May God bless all of their families.

President's Message from page 1

The adult education class has been quite interesting and informative. Even if you have not been to any of the sessions in this series yet, you will definitely get something out of it if you come. Therefore, I would encourage you to try to make some of the sessions.

Sunday School from Page 2

We have gotten a rug for a little nursery area for parents to use with their children if they need to give the children a break. Other Sundays, our older youth have helped out with the younger children. In addition to this, Damian Peters has led a couple of rehearsals practicing a hymn the children hope to sing during the Liturgy. Finally, our Parish Council has been active in helping put up bulletin boards on which the children may hang things for display, and in searching for ways to expand our classroom space.

Support the Church's Fund Raiser!!!

**Buy and Help Sell
"50/50" Raffles**

**Drawing December 11, 2005
at St. Nicholas Day Dinner**

Pastor's Message from page 1

"Need alone is the poor man's worthiness; if anyone at all ever comes to us with this recommendation, let us not meddle any further. We do not provide for the manners but for the man. We show mercy on him not because of his virtue but because of his misfortune, in order that we ourselves may receive from the Master His great mercy, in order that we ourselves, unworthy as we are, may enjoy His philanthropy." "Some people are punished only in this life; others suffer no misfortune here, but receive all their due retribution in the next life...When you see a person living in wickedness and enjoying great prosperity, without suffering any misfortune, you should mourn particularly for this reason, because although he is afflicted with a very serious disease and ulcer, he aggravates his illness, making himself worse by his luxury and self-indulgence." "How many discouragements come to us every day? How great a soul is needed not to desist through impatience or disgust, but to give thanks, to glorify and worship Him who permits these trials to assault us? How many unexpected difficulties arise? We must also fight back our evil thoughts and not permit our tongue to utter anything foul, just as the blessed Job, while he suffered a multitude of misfortunes, continued to give thanks to God." May these words speak to us as we reflect this month on how we offer to God our time, our talents, and our treasures.

*"For the Family to have a Richer Church Life,
Participate in as many
St. Nicholas' Services and Activities
as Possible!!! "*

Archdiocese & OCA News

In October, the OCA Synod of Bishops elected Bishop Nikon to the position of "Ruling Bishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese".

On Oct 21& 22 in Boston, MA. the Albanian Archdiocese held its Annual Assembly. St. Nicholas was represented by Fr. David, Lou Foundos and Jim Liolin. Listed below are some of the highlights:

- Bishop Nikon provided his annual report indicating major activities and travels where he represented the Albanian Archdiocese and the Orthodox Church in America. He plans to distribute the full report to all the parishes later in the year.
- This past year Bishop Nikon ordained 4 Deacons into our Archdiocese. One individual, Dennis Nagi, is a retired college professor who has decided to serve the church and has been assigned to St. Mary's Assumption Church in Worcester to assist Fr. Page.

- The Student Fund expects some more students and about \$10,000 was raised from donations by individuals and also from the various churches. There is definitely a shortage of clergy and without clergy, we cannot meet the needs of the faithful.
- After much discussion, the Fair Share program that you will be hearing more about, will be presented to the parishes for discussion prior to the next Assembly. This is an attempt to change the system of payments of the Archdiocesan obligation based on "members" which is interpreted differently by each church community, and more on a proportional basis based on the pledges and/or dues that all the parishes receive.

The next Archdiocesan Assembly will be held at St. Thomas Albanian Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills, MI in October 2006.

This Month's Major Feast Day

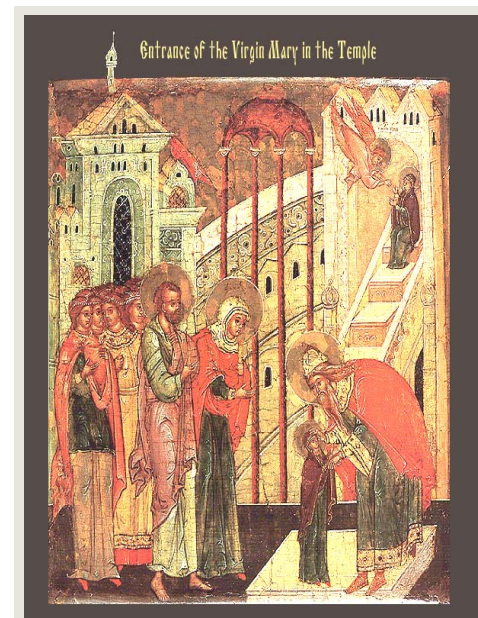
The Entrance (Presentation) of the Theotokos into the Temple

November 21st

The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos according to Holy Tradition, this took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Righteous Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Mary in Her finest clothes. With the singing of sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands,

virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.



Feast Day
November 21st

Major Church Activities and Events

- Oct 20-22: Albanian Archdiocese Assembly
- Oct 29-30: Bake Sale & Rummage Sale
- Nov 8 : Parish Council Meeting
- Nov 2: Adult Education -
Nov 9: Wednesday's
Nov 16: at
Nov 30: 7:30 pm
Dec 7:
- Dec 11: St. Nicholas Day Luncheon
"50/50" Raffle Drawing
- Dec 18: Christmas Pageant &
Pancake Breakfast
- Dec 24/25: Christmas Services

**Ushers' Assignment List
For Sunday Services**

- Oct 30: Jim Liolin/Nasi Pavllo
- Nov 6: Lou Foundos/Mike Kelapire
- Nov 13: Roland Llupa/Edi Sera
- Nov 20: Bill Peters/Nick Papajorgji
- Nov 27: Petrika Troja/Thoma Fundo
- Dec 4: Jim Liolin/Nasi Pavllo

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
181-14 Midland Parkway
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code