

# THE ORTHODOX POST

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## Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

**The Damaged Icon**, by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

*Unless we look at a person and see the beauty there is in this person,  
We cannot contribute anything to him.  
One does not help a person by discerning what is wrong,  
What is ugly  
What is distorted.*

*Christ looked at everyone He met,  
At the prostitute, at the thief,  
And saw the beauty hidden there.  
Perhaps it was distorted, but it was beauty nonetheless,  
And what he did  
Was to call out to this beauty.  
This is what we must learn to do with regard to others.  
But to do so,  
We must first have a purity of heart,  
A purity of intention,  
An openness, which is not always there,  
So that we can listen, can look, and  
Can see the beauty which is hidden.*

## President's Message

By Bill Peters

Summer is here!!! It is the time for fun activities such as picnics, beach parties and vacations. At St. Nicholas, Summer is a time for continuing work for on-going projects and planning for the new church year beginning in September.

Major activities including the Construction and the Fundraising for our Building Expansion are moving forward. The Fundraising effort has started to reach into the overall Albanian Community for financial support. Many Parishioners have made their Commitment for financial support. Those who still have not, should join their fellow Parishioners and make their financial Commitment to the Project. We need everyone to participate. Major Construction work is planned to complete during the Fall.

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*Every one of us is in the image of God,  
And every one of us is like a damaged icon.  
But, if we were given an icon damaged by time,  
Damaged by circumstances,  
Or desecrated by human hatred,  
We would treat it with reverence,  
With tenderness,  
With broken-heartedness.*

*We would not pay attention primarily to the fact that it is damaged,  
But to the tragedy of its being damaged.  
We would not concentrated on what is left of its beauty,  
And not on what is lost of its beauty.  
And this is what we must learn to do  
With regard to each person.*

Planning is underway for the start of Sunday School - Registration is on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> with classes starting on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Another September event is the Annual Golf Outing which is a major fundraiser for the Church. Try to participate and bring your friends. Finally, the Parish General Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> after Liturgy. Other events include:

- On September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, the Albanian Archdiocese will hold its Centennial Gala Dinner/Dance and Hierarchal Liturgy to celebrate its 100 Year Anniversary. See Bill Peters to make your Reservations.
- On November 10<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>, the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) will hold its 15<sup>th</sup> All American Council in Pittsburgh, PA. Reps of Dioceses and Parishes will attend to address matters dealing with the national church.

## Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

### YOUR DESTINY

Watch your Thoughts, they become Words.  
 Watch your Words, they become Actions.  
 Watch your Actions, they become Habits.  
 Watch your Habits, they become Character.  
 Watch your Character, for it becomes your Destiny.

### THE GREATEST MAN IN HISTORY

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.  
 He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.  
 He no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.  
 He no army, yet kings feared Him.  
 He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.  
 He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.  
 He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Korrik-Gusht 2008

Misteri i Trinitetit të Shenjtë

Ne besojmë në një Zot, i cili ekziston në tre qënje: Ati, Biri dhe Shpirti i Shenjtë. Ky fakt është në themel të besimit Orthodoks. Kur jemi të vegjël, e pranojmë këtë fakt me besim. Megjithatë, kur rritemi, koncepti "3 në 1" na duket konfuz dhe i pakuptueshëm.

Shën Sirili, Aposulli i famshëm sllav, u përpoq t'a spjegonte konceptin e Trinitetit të Shenjtë, në këtë mënyrë: "E shihni djellin në qiell dhe se si nga ai, merret drita dhe pastaj, nga kjo, ngrohësia fillon? Zoti At është i djelli, pa fillim apo mbarim. Nga Ai ekziston Zoti i Biri, si drita nga djelli. Ashtu sic merret ngrohësia bashkë me dritën nga djelli, ashtu lind dhe Shpirti i Shenjtë. Secili nga ata ka ndryshim. Nuk ka tre diej në qiell, por vetëm një. E njëjta ndodh me Trinitetin e Shenjtë: ka tre natyra në Zotin, por Zoti është një dhe i pandarë.

Kisha Orthodokse na mëson se të tre "natyrat" e Zotit, kanë të njëjtën rëndësi shenjtore. Vetëm se Zoti At nuk vjen nga askush tjetër. Zoti Bir vjen nga Zoti At dhe Fryma e Shenjte vjen nga Ati. Të Tre natyrat e Zotit qëndrojnë të lidhura me dashuri me njëra tjetrën dhe përbëjnë një Qënje. Akoma jeni konfuz? Ndoshta fjalët e Agustinit të Bekuar, Atit të madh të kishës së perëndimit, do të na ndihmojnë: "Do ta kuptoni Trinitetin në se do përdorni dashurinë. Është e vërtetë se mund t'a kthjellojmë misterin e Trinitetit po të përdorim zemrën në vend të mendjes.

**"Skenderbeu" nga Henri Uodsooth Longfellou Perkthyer nga "FAN NOLI"**

...Nga kështjella shpejt ka rënë  
 Flamuri me gjysmë-hënë  
 Edhe populli shikon  
 Që në vënt të tij valon  
 Flamur'i Skenderit n'ërë  
 Shkab' e Zezë me dy krerë  
 Dhe një thirrje lart u ngrit  
 Se çdo zemër e çdo shpirt  
 U mërzit nga Turku i lik,  
 Që e beri atë Krujë  
 Zi, murtajë dhe rrëmujë.  
 Ay zë me gas me bujë  
 Q'oshëtin nga brek në brek

Ja kështu Skënderi trim  
 Mori Krujën me rrëmbim;  
 Edhe lajma u përhap  
 Si nje flagë, si një zjarr  
 Që fryn era në behar  
 Dhe qytetet afër lark,  
 Thotë Ben Isa Ben Miri  
 Në Qitap të tij fakiri  
 "Binin m'atë lehtësi  
 Që zë burri veshn' e tij."

**ALBANIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
CENTENNIAL**

**Reserve your Tickets NOW!!!**

**See Bill Peters - Tix \$125**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2008**  
 Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America  
**GRAND GALA  
 CELEBRATION**

Honoring Our Past  
 Embracing Our Future  
**ONE HUNDRED YEARS  
 1908-2008**

**SEAPORT HOTEL  
 WORLD TRADE CENTER  
 BOSTON, MA  
 (next to Anthony's Pier 4)**

[www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html](http://www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html)

## CHURCH EXPANSION MOVING AHEAD



It has been quiet for the last couple months while we explored some great ideas from one of our parishioners to preserve the present look of the Church and build on the back of the Church over or under the parking lot. Well, build we will, and it will be under the parking lot and plans have been finalized.

In taking in consideration the limitations of our plot, permitting issues with neighbors and cost to heat and cool the space, we have decided to build the extra space for the classrooms and storage directly in back of the Fellowship Hall. This means we will build directly under our parking lot and then reinstate the parking lot as it is presently. This approach will give us about forty percent more space than our previous plans. It has several other advantages, it will increase the size of our Fellowship Hall, the Ladies restroom won't be downsized, will keep the classrooms close to where the parents are and everything being on one level makes it easier all around. Of course elevator and all other things will be included as in the original plans.

The upstairs expansion in the Church for adding the balcony over the entrance is as previously planned and we still hope to do all the other improvements, a/c, kitchen, men's bathroom and other sprucing up to bring St Nicholas Church up to date to serve our present and future needs.

We are submitting our drawings for approval in late June and hopefully we can start construction in August. This means completion later this year.

We are also making a new release in the greater metropolitan area to the Albanian Community and our friends to ask them to help us in this Church Expansion project to better serve all.

### **ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION CONVENTION**

The Albanian-American National Organization, AANO, is hosting its 62<sup>nd</sup> annual convention at the Westin Philadelphia Hotel on August 1, 2 and 3, 2008. In addition to the weekend events, and scholarship awards, this year they have decided to give a **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

We are delighted that the honoree of this award is our own Al Foundos. Anyone who knows Al can appreciate how deserving he is of this award. He who so unselfishly and tirelessly promotes, works for and helps so many causes and individuals. Congratulations Al!! For convention reservations, call Carolyn Boria at 508-864-9237 or check the AANO website at [www.aano.org](http://www.aano.org) for details.

## Community News

By Linda Foundos

- Congratulations to Kresti Pecani who graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology. Kresti was an exceptional student, and, in fact, was valedictorian of his class. He is planning to enroll in a dental program soon. Kresti's family and friends are very proud of him. Bravo!!
- Our deepest sympathy to Charlie Pochari and his family on the falling asleep in the Lord on June 5<sup>th</sup> of his wife, Betty. Charlie and Betty celebrated 50 years of happy marriage which produced 2 loving daughters and 7 beautiful grandchildren. May her memory be eternal. Betty will be greatly missed.
- The Petrika Troja family enjoyed a fabulous family excursion to sunny Florida. They spent their time in Ft. Lauderdale and Key West which they found delightful. There's nothing like relaxing by the ocean with perfect days and sunsets, a little shopping, some nice restaurants and good company.
- Congratulations to Thea Pavllo who graduated from 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Thea is excited about moving on to middle school in the fall. Her parents Albana and Nasi are very proud of her. She is hard working, a good student and looking forward to new challenges.
- Look who's on the road now.....Diana Beno!! Congratulations to her on earning her driver's license. There's no stopping her now!! Bravo, we're very proud of you and wish you safe driving. Too bad gas is nearly \$5 a gallon though!!!
- I think I see a "Tony Award" in the future for Kris Kutali!! Kris has been involved in the theatre program for the past 2 years at the Long Island City High School. This year her school was sponsored to take part in a Broadway production. They worked for over 6 months with professional theater based companies to put together a play in which Kris auditioned for and won the lead role! What an amazing experience; a dream come true! She even got to meet 2 actors; Peter Gallagher from the hit series "The O.C." and Claire Danes who played in "Romeo and Juliet." Her parents, Sylvana and Andrea, other family and friends are very proud of her success in working toward her dream. After all, dreams do come true!!
- Tina Peters is certainly going to be missed at the Searingtown Elementary School!!! Tina is retiring after more than 30 years of teaching, the vast majority of which was at 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Tina taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade for the first 7 years of her career. After college graduation, she began teaching and immediately returned nights to St. John's University to earn her Masters Degree in Education. Tina has a special gift for imparting knowledge, earning the trust and friendship of children and lots of creative talent. She was definitely in the right profession. Thousands of children over the years were blessed to have her as a teacher, one they will long remember. Many come back decades later to visit their beloved teacher from their childhood. Several of her former students are teachers. Tina's husband, Bill, our St. Nicholas Parish Council President, who recently retired, is happy to have company. They look forward to traveling, visiting their daughter Alexis and her family in Switzerland as well as enjoying their leisure time locally with family and friends.
- Congratulations to John Jance who is retiring after 35 years of teaching Social Studies. Most of his years were at Van Arsdale High School, where he also became a UFT official. John earned his degree in education from Bernard Baruch College. Over the years he earned a Masters Degree in Education from Queens College. His love of the subject matter enabled him to make it interesting to high school students. John thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of working with teenagers; and his students came to like and respect him. We wish John a healthy and happy retirement!!!
- The Albanian Archdiocese video celebrating its Centennial was enjoyed by many Parishioners. It was shown on June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup> at coffee hour. The next showing will be Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION with FR. DAVID**

Every other Sunday / 11:45 a.m. to noon

**ADULT BASIC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES**  
July 6, 20; Aug 3, 17, 31

**CHILDREN'S TIME READING THE BIBLE**  
July 13, 27; Aug 10, 24



## Parish Council Members Take Oath

On Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, the 2008 Parish Council with its newly elected members were administered the oath of office by Fr. David Fox. **This year's officers and Parish Council members are:**

President	Bill Peters
Vice President	Ilia Luka
Treasurer	Lou Foundos
Secretary	John Jance

Members:

Tomi Beno	Pauline Ligore
Ken Gjika	Peter Panajoti
Jim Liolin	Nasi Pavllo

## Adult Study – “Why We Do What We Do and How We Do It”

### *Once-a-Month Sessions Starting Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm with Reader Nathan*

If you enjoyed preparing for Lent, if you witnessed your children serving or singing and would like to follow them in these offerings, if you have ever wondered why our services are so long, if you would like to sing or chant but think you don't know how, if you would not like to serve or chant but know you should, if you just don't know how to spend one Wednesday night a month, now is your chance.

Announcing a new opportunity for adult education: **“Why we do what we do and how we do it”**. The last Wednesday night of every month we will take the opportunity to explore our church. Because our faith does not ask us simply to think about high ideas like doctrine or theology but to practice these, our inquiry and exploration will be grounded firmly in the practical. In the process, we will begin to know our faith from the inside, learning to live theology, scripture, and doctrine as we learn simple skills we can use in the service of our parish and to enrich our own lives.

**Tell Nathan if you are coming to our first meeting will be on July 30 from 7 to 9pm.**

## Sunday School Play Review by Grace Holinski

We had an extremely successful Sunday School Year! I would like to extend my thanks to the wonderful team of teachers with whom I had the pleasure of working. I could not have done anything without them! It was they who encouraged me to put on a play at the end of the year.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, my fifth grade Sunday School class put on a lively production highlighting the story of Saints Constantine and Helen and the crosses. We thought it would be appropriate to study the story immediately following Pascha. The children truly did an outstanding job! George Beno took on the role of Saint Constantine and Thea Pavllo shone as Saint Helen. I would also like to thank the Jerusalem inhabitants: little Kristiana and Vasian for participating in our play. Dan Oswald did a spectacular job as our “man in stretcher.” Also, a special thanks to Mac Fox for reading the marriage vows so beautifully. It was these marriage vows that tied our entire story together. Damian, we additionally appreciated your help in carrying the stretcher! Special acknowledgement also goes to my father, Ed Holinski, for making all our props, including the stretcher!

I found that the students were very well engaged and had insightful questions about the story. My goal is to put on two or three skits next year. I have found that it is much more effective than reading the story aloud.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!**

## **Major Church Activities and Events**

**Wed, July 23: Parish Council Meeting at 7pm**

### **Adult Study with Reader Nathan**

**"Why We Do What We Do and How We Do It"**

**Wed, July 30: 7 to 9 pm**

**Wed, Aug 27: 7 to 9 pm**

### **Sunday School Begins**

**Sun, Sept 7: Registration**

**Sun, Sept 14: Classes Begin**

**Sun, Sept 07: Albanian Archdiocese Video  
Shown during Coffee Hour**

**Sun, Sept 20: Parish General Meeting after Liturgy**

### **Archdiocese Centennial Celebration – Boston, MA**

**Sat, Sept 27: Gala - Dinner & Dance**

**Sun, Sept 28: Hierarchal Liturgy–St. George Cathedral**

**Mon, Sept 29: Golf Outing at 11 am  
Oyster Bay Golf Course**

### **Children's One Room School House:**

**11:45 – 12 Noon: Every Sunday**

**"SEE SUNDAY BULLETIN FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES!!!"**

## **Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kishe**

<b>July</b>	<b>06:</b>	<b>Damian Peters / Steven Foundos</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>13:</b>	<b>Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavlo</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>20:</b>	<b>Iilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>27:</b>	<b>Bill Peters / Ilia Luka</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>03:</b>	<b>Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>10:</b>	<b>Andrea Kutali / John Jance</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>17:</b>	<b>Lou Foundos / Robert Korra</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>24:</b>	<b>Roland Llupa / Edi Sera</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>31:</b>	<b>Damian Peters / Steven Foundos</b>
<b>Sept</b>	<b>07:</b>	<b>Bill Peters / Ilia Luka</b>
<b>Sept</b>	<b>14:</b>	<b>Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavlo</b>

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.stnicholasalbanian.org](http://www.stnicholasalbanian.org)

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