

THE ORTHODOX POST

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

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Hello,

As promised in my previous installment, the following are answers to the very few questions I received over the course of the last month. If you find the content below dull or would have preferred to be just a bit more nosy, there is only one person to blame. Note, though, that I do take questions and inquiries in person, so despair not.

Were you "born into" the Orthodox Church?

No. I was raised in a very devout protestant family. My parents had begun attending that same church before even my older brother (one brother, two younger sisters, in case you were going to ask) was born. We went to services twice each week and often more. There was no Orthodox community in that area until after I had moved away to go to college. Upon enrolling in university, like many, I stayed away from church of any sort for a while, but found that, after a year of this, I yearned to return. I

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then became a regular member of the local Episcopal Church, having tasted for the first time the richness of liturgical tradition. At the time, I was studying Classics—Latin and Greek language and culture. Reading particularly some of the earliest accounts of the Church, these impressed upon me a sense of vitality and spiritual depth that I had before found absent. Attending orientation at graduate school, I met a young priest fresh from seminary. He became my godfather, and I

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President's Message

by Bill Peters

We are off to a good start to our new church year! Many activities are underway as indicated in this issue of The Orthodox Post and Fr. Nathan is deeply involved in working with parishioners in making them a success. There are two activities I wish to talk to you about.

Sunday School has started with its new classrooms which are decorated nicely. A full-team of committed teachers will be using this new space and facilities to help our children learn better. In addition to religious education every Sunday, on two Sundays each month religious education will be followed with by Albanian classes for those interested in attending.

Religious education is very important for our children. Parents, make sure you sign-up your child or children for Sunday School and bring them to Church so they can attend classes!!! If you have any questions, talk to Fr. Nathan or the teachers.

Building Expansion is completed and we will be celebrating! We are already benefiting from the new expanded Fellowship Hall, the classrooms, the elevator/lift, the new air conditioning units and the remodeled kitchen.

Our Celebration consists of a Dinner-Dance on Saturday, October 23rd and a Commemorative Journal. Funds will be raised by these activities and will be used to help pay off part of the bank loan taken out to complete the Project. Journal Ads are being bought by Parishioners and Friends of the Church to support St. Nicholas for several reasons: for Congratulations to the Church, in Memory of Departed Loved Ones and for Businesses to advertise.

Please BUY an Ad and encourage friends, family and businesses to buy an Ad, as soon as possible. Call Bill Peters at 516 248-8462 or Email: peterslwp@optimum.net.

Also, **Come to the Dinner-Dance!!!** Reserve your tickets as soon as possible, since tickets are limited and No tickets will be sold at the dance.

Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

entered the Church in Chicago. (He is now the rector at a mission parish on the Big Island of Hawaii; they love visitors.)

When/how did you know you wanted to be a priest?

I don't know that I ever "knew" this because ordination is a little different than wanting to be in any other profession. Though it requires that the person be willing; it depends, ultimately, not on this desire but on selection by others: the bishop, the Church, the community. However, I realized that I was at least willing when I was in graduate school in Chicago. I had taken a great leap from a small state university to a school at the very top of my chosen field—Religious Studies. Rather than the theology and liturgical and pastoral training I was later to receive at seminary, the curriculum there was largely secular and devoted to the historical, anthropological, and linguistic understanding of religions. And I was happy in that realm. However, I realized that I was happiest at Church while spending a day there in silence cleaning candle wax off the floors with my friend Micha. He and I were the regular volunteer corps there, doing the things that others considered burdensome. Despite the thrill of learning and mastering the field I was then pursuing, I found real value in the mundane tasks of parish life.

Why Albanian?

In seminary, I was fortunate my first year to take a class with Fr. Luke Veronis on the topic of missions in the Orthodox Church. He wrote the book on this subject and was among the first to devote himself to restoring the Church in Albania, being personally invited by Archbishop +ANASTASIOS. Two years later, I received a grant to participate in an OCMC short-term trip to see and assist in missionary efforts around the world. I spent two weeks in Durrës and Tirana teaching English. In my last year of seminary, I found St. Nicholas, a most welcoming

So much for self-revelation, I hope this has sated your curiosity somewhat, and I look forward to posing my own questions to you in the coming months.

Fr. Nathan

Dinner - Dance

Church Expansion Celebration

Saturday, October 23rd

7 pm til 12 am

In Church New Fellowship Hall



Buffet Dinner & Drinks Dancing
D.J - Bendi Mani

Come & Join the Fun!!!

Admission:

\$60 adults \$30 children 12 & under

*Capacity is limited. Tickets will only be sold in advance
NOT at the door. Reserve your Table Today!!!
Deadline for Buying Tickets is Wednesday, October 13th*

To purchase your tickets, please contact:

Beti Beno, Esq. (917) 596-4738

Linda Foundos (516) 671-8071

Zhani Joanidhi (917) 412-0344

Silvana Kutali (718) 386-5314

Agathia Luka (718) 456-6582

Irma Mile (516) 470-0030

Eli Troja (718) 364-5539

Buy a Journal Ad

Our Celebration of the "Building Expansion" includes a Commemorative Journal to Raise Funds.

Buy an Ad

to Wish St. Nicholas Success, or in Memory of a Departed Loved One or to Advertise a Business.

Ad Cost: Full Page-\$200 or Half Page-\$125

See: Lou Foundos, Iliia Luka, Tomi Beno, Beti (Beno) & Izzy Tsamblakos, or Bill Peters.

Daughters Corner

by Linda Foundos

Our Lakror Luncheon Fundraiser was successful thanks to a team that worked so well together each doing their part... shopping, cooking, setting up, selling tickets, serving and cleaning up. They are Christine Beno, Ellen Gradt, Viola Kallinikos, Sylvana Kutali, Andrea Kutali, Christina Liolin, Pauline Logore, Donna Oswald, Barbara Papalexis, Mark Papalexis, Nasi Pavllo, Tina Peters, Rosalie Zacharias and Fr. Nathan too! All help is greatly appreciated including anyone else that may have pitched in to help with the clean up too. And a huge thank you to all of you that supported and enjoyed this fine meal with us!

Also, I would be remiss if I did not mention the countless hours of getting life back in order after our major construction project wiping away dust, rearranging and sorting out the items in the office, the kitchen cabinets and our many storage areas. Many thanks to Adriana & Andrea Topore, Tina & Bill Peters, Mark Papalexis and Fr. Nathan too. We are grateful for the generous volunteer effort on the part of Nasi Pavllo who completed our parking lot with the addition of Belgian blocks.

Keep in mind November 13th & 14th for our annual Flea Market/Bake Sale. You may begin to bring your items on Sunday, October 31st. This will be after the great party being planned for Saturday, October 23rd. Please make sure your items are clean and in working order. You can help in a number of ways. You can donate household items or home baked goods for sale, help with pricing or selling or donate money to defray some of our costs. A sign-up sheet will be available soon for you to sign up for whatever way you can participate. Don't be shy!!

We ask that you please keep your address and phone number up to date with our office. Please remember to notify us of any changes. Your cooperation is appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at our Celebration Dinner Dance on Saturday, October 23rd.

General Parish Meeting

Sunday, October 17th, after Liturgy



Come to our Meeting!!!!

Important business of the St. Nicholas Parish will be discussed, including: Building Expansion Project, Religious Education, Church Finances, Social Activities, and Daughters of St. Nicholas activities.

Orthodox Education Day

St. Vladimir's Seminary - Saturday, October 2

The theme is "Many Cultures-One Church". Fr. Nathan with members of our Youth Group will be setting a booth showing aspects of Albanian culture and customs. If interested in participating, contact Fr. Nathan.

Mark your Calendar ! Flea Market & Bake Sale November 13th and 14th



Using our expanded Fellowship Hall, The Daughters will hold its Flea Market and Bake Sale on Saturday and Sunday, November 13th and 14th.

Save up your items to donate in November, so they can be sold to raise funds for the Church. Also, plan on providing Bake Goods to sell.

We need everyone to work together so we can have a very successful fundraising event!!!!

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Tetor, 2010

Prindër: Desha t'u kujtoja se shkolla e kishës, Anglisht dhe Shqip ka filluar, dhe fëmijët kanë nevojë për ju t'i sillni në kishë, edhe pse duket sikur nuk kanë dëshirë të vijnë. Është në natyrën e fëmijës, sidomos kur rriten këtu...Kujtoj fjalët e të ndjerës Helena Liolinit, nënës së At Arturit, Peshkopit Nikon dhe e Xhim Liolinit, e cila thoshte se po t'i sillni fëmijët më shpesh në kishë bota jashtë do këtë më pak mundësi për t'i bërë ata për vete... Sa e vërtetë...

...Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë nga libri "Paqe" i Joyse Meyer, me titull "Lutja Sjell Paqe".

Filipianëve 4:6 thotë: "Mos u shqetësoni për asgjë" (mos keni ankth); "por në cdo lutje e kërkesë, me falenderime, bëjani të ditura kërkesat tuaja Perëndisë. Dhe Paqa e Perëndisë, që tejkalon gjithë arsytimin, do të ruajë zemrat dhe mendjet tuaja nëpërmjet Jezus Krishtit".

Është e mbrekullueshme të përjetosh paqen që ia kalon cdo arsytimi. Kur, sipas gjithë rrethanave duhet të jeni të mërziur, në panik, në dhimbje dhe në shqetësim, ju ende e keni atë paqe të paspjegueshme. Kjo është një përvojë e mbrekullueshme. Bota është e uritur për këte lloj paqeje. Nuk mund ta blini se nuk është në shitje. Ajo është një dhuratë falas nga Jezusi dhe bëhet juaja kur e pranoni Atë si Zot dhe Shpëtimtar dhe mësoni të ecni sipas parimeve të Tij. Lutja e përkushtimit është një lutje e fuqishme e cila e lëviz barrën nga ju tek Jezusi "duke hedhur gjithë merakun tuaj mbi të, sepse Ai kujdeset për ju". Shumë të krishterë nuk e përdorin kurrë këtë përfitim të madh edhe pse ju përket atyre. A jeni duke e shijuar paqen që mund të

këni kur i hidhni të gjitha shqetësimet tuaja mbi të? Këtë gjë mund ta bëni vetëm nëpërmjet lutjes. Parashtroni problemet tuaja përkujdesjes së Tij të dashur. Bëjeni këtë menjëherë sapo Fryma e Shenjtë t'ju ndërgjegjësojë se po shqetësoheni apo se keni humbur paqen.

Djali dëshiron që ju të shqetësoheni. Mos prisni që ai të këtë mundësi t'u mposhte për disa ditë. Sa më gjatë të prisni t'i rezistoni, aq më e fortë do të bëhet qëndresa e djallit brënda jush dhe do të jetë me e vështirë të liroheshi prej tij. Sapo e kuptoni se po shqetësoheni, refuzojeni këtë shqetësim. Hidhni përkujdesjen e kësaj situatë mbi Perëndinë. Ndryshoni mënyrën e mendimit...

Nëse nuk e keni ftuar asnjëherë Jezusin të jete Zoti dhe Shpëtimtari juaj, ju ftoj ta bëni këtë tani. Mund të bëni këtë lutje edhe nëse jeni me të vërtetë të sinqertë me të, do të përfitoni një jetë të re në Krishtin.

"Atë Perëndi, unë besoj se Jezus Krishti është Biri Yt, Shpëtimtari i botës. Unë besoj se Ai vdiq në kryq për mua dhe Ai mbarti të gjitha mëkatet e mia. Ai pagoi cmimin për mëkatet e mia. Ai mori dënimin që unë meritoja. Unë besoj se Jezusi u ringjall prej së vdekurish dhe tani është i ulur në krahun Tënd të djathtë. Unë kam nevojë për Ty, Jezus. Më fal mëkatet e mia, më shpëto, eja të jetosh brënda meje. Unë dua të rilindem përsëri."

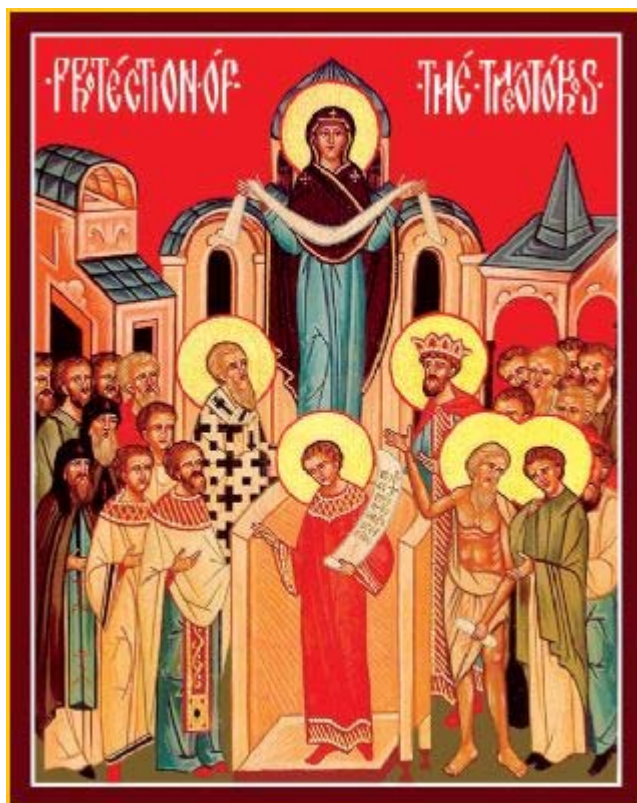
Tani beso se Jezusi po jeton në zemrën tënde. Mësoni Fjalën e Perëndisë dhe filloni të rriteni në Krishtin. Asgjë nuk do të mund të ndryshojë në jetën tuaj pa njohurinë e Fjalës së Perëndisë. Gjoni 8:31, 32 thotë: "Nëse do të qëndroni në fjalën Time...jeni më të vërtetë dishepujt e Mi. Dhe ju do ta njihni të Vërtetën, dhe e Vërteta do t'u bëjë të lirë".

Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese Annual Assembly

During September 23 - 25, clergy and lay representatives from all the churches in the Albanian Archdiocese met at the Annual Assembly. It addressed programs, finances, strategic plan and religious matters. The meeting was presided over by Bishop Nikon.

The meeting was hosted by The Albanian Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Natick, Massachusetts. St. Nicholas Church attendees were Fr. Nathan Preston, John Jance and Bill Peters. We will host the Archdiocese Assembly in September 2012.

A major project underway is the building of new offices for the Archdiocese Headquarters and our Bishop next to St. George Cathedral in Boston. A Fundraising Campaign for this project is being started by the Archdiocese this month. More information will be provided in the near future.



The Protection of our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary Commemorated on October 1

"Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!" This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ St Andrew, at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. St John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer.

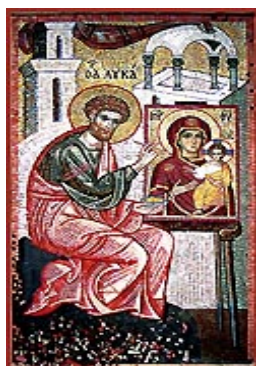
After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." St Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe."

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them not go away from my icon unheard." Sts Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and "for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation."

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN OCTOBER



Hieromartyr Dionysius
October 03



Apostle and Evangelist Luke
October 18



Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord
October 23



Holy, Glorious Dhimitri
October 26



Martyr Anastasia the Roman
October 29

Major Church Activities and Events

- Sat, Oct 02: Orthodox Education Day at
St. Vladimir's Seminary
- Sun, Oct 03: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Oct 10: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Wed, Oct 13: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sun, Oct 17: Semi Annual Parish Meeting;
after Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sat, Oct 23: Church Dinner-Dance
Fellowship Hall, 7 p.m. – 12 p.m.
- Sun, Oct 24: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Oct 31: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

- Oct 03: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos
- Oct 10: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- Oct 17: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- Oct 24: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka
- Oct 31: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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