

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 Father David Fox

Dear friends,

Last Sunday, I announced that I will be leaving St. Nicholas Church at the end of April and transferring to serve a parish 15 minutes from our home, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ.

I write this with heartfelt sadness and gratitude, but also believing that this move will ultimately be best for my family and for the St. Nicholas community.

Please know that this decision had nothing to do with being unhappy here: on the contrary, the community has been gracious, understanding, and a joy to serve. It is simply that, after nearly five years, I am seeking for me and the family to serve closer to home,

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and I believe you need more than I can offer now.

During the next few months I will have time to say more, to tell you how much you have meant to me and my family. For now, just know that I am working with the Bishop and parish council to help in the transition to the next pastor.

The efforts are encouraging, and I am hopeful that you will be sent a good priest who can serve the needs of the parish.

Look forward speaking with you face to face.

President's Message

By Bill Peters

First, we offer "Best Wishes" to Fr. David and his Family on his upcoming transfer on May 1st to a parish in New Jersey. You will be kept informed of the progress toward finding a replacement priest.

On January 11th, we had a very successful Icon Presentation and Auction which raised significant money. We thank all who participated and invite those who didn't attend to send in donations in honor of their favorite Icons.

Many activities are planned for parishioners, such as a St. Valentine's Day Dance in the Church Hall, information seminars, adult education and Pre-sanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays during Lent, as well as other services leading up to and including Lent. More details are shown inside this Newsletter.

The 2009 Pledge Program Campaign is underway.

So far, about half of all parishioners have submitted their Pledge Card. It is important that all of us financially support the Church with our Pledge. This money makes it possible to operate the Church and to provide the religious, educational and social services to our community. Therefore, make your Pledge by thinking how important the Church is to you and your family, then make a generous Pledge by filling in your Pledge Card and returning it to Church.

Finally, our Church Building Expansion Project, currently planned for a Spring groundbreaking, is progressing. We are working with the NYC Buildings Department to get approval of plans and drawings. While this is going on, all parishioners should continue to financially support the Project. For those of you who have not yet done so, you can make a donation Commitment to the Building Fund. If you have already made a Commitment, you can continue making donations toward fulfilling that Commitment.

Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

Our country has a new leader. Let us keep Barack Obama and his new Cabinet in our prayers so that he may guide us to better days. He so eloquently states in such an inspirational and hopeful way what needs to be done. We must try to keep this call to action, momentum and hope alive in each of us.



The Daughters will have a meeting on Sunday February 1st to plan our next event and to hold elections. Please come with your ideas.



House Blessings Continue !

Please call Fr. David

at 201-841-7590

to Schedule a Visit

KENDI SHQIP (The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Shkurt, 2009

Këtë muaj po japim një lutje te njerzve të martuar (me rastin e Ditës së Valentinit) dhe një pjesë nga vjersha "Bukurija" e Naimit

Lutje e njerzve të martuar

...O Zot mëshirëplot, lutemi të na kujtosh se të qënit të martuar është dicka e shenjtë , dhe që ne duhet t'a mbajmë këtë gjithmonë të tillë; na jep hirësine tënde që të jemi përherë në besnikëri dhe dashuri me njëri tjetrin; na rrit në shpirtin tonë marëveshjen dhe besimin e dyfishtë, që asnjë grindje dhe konflikt të mos na ndajë; na dhuro bekimet e tua, që ne të qëndrojmë para partnerëve tanë dhe nën hirësinë Tënde si një familje ideale; dhe së fundi, me mëshirën tënde, na bëj të denjë për nje jete të përherëshme; sepse Ti na pastron nga mëkatet dhe Ti na jep lavdinë; besojmë tek Ty, Ati, Biri dhe Shpirti i Shenjtë; tani dhe përherë në jetë të jetëve. Amin.

Bukurija

...Do të këndonj Bukurinë
E të lëvdonj Perëdinë,
Perëdin' e bukurisë,
Q'i dha shijë gjithësisë!

Perëndija bukuroshe!
Ty të falem e të lutem
Më vjen në gji të të futem
O zonja përkëdheloshe,
Që më je si mbretëreshë,
Të keqen o pëllumbeshë.

ADULT ED & PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

Every Wednesday starting on
March 4th

Pre-Sanctified at 7:00 p.m.

Followed by Adult Study on
"The Gospel of Luke"



St. Valentine's Day Party

Sponsor: AANO Scholarship Fund

In Church Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 14th
7:30 to 11:30 pm



Live Music by SPARKS

Plenty of Hors d'oeuvres,
Dessert & Beverages

Price: \$40 per Person
(\$20 Children under
13)

Tickets Limited, Reserve ASAP:

Jana Foundos 631 577-0032

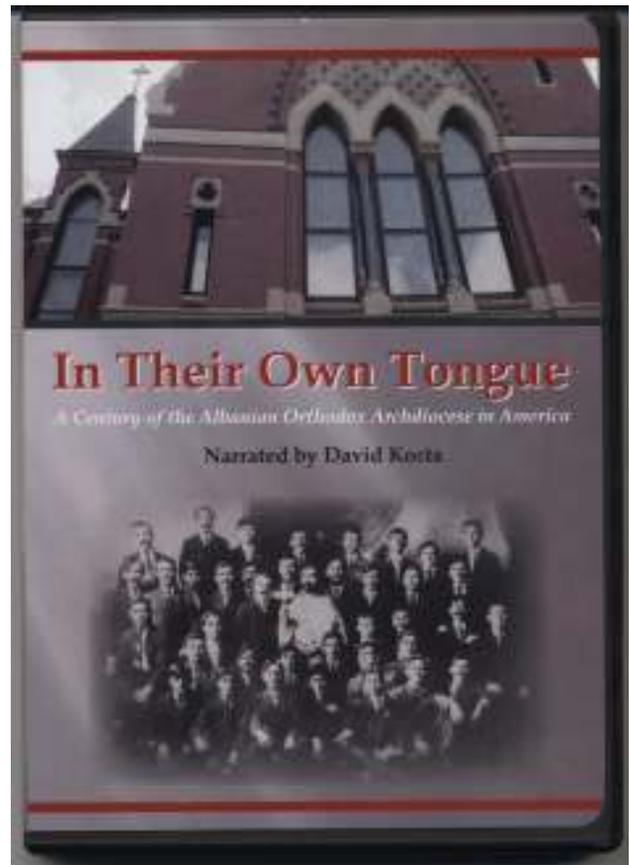
Email Jana at:

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Erma Mile 516 470-0030

ARCHDIOCESE CENTENNIAL DVD



In Their Own Tongue: The first in-depth documentary to chronicle the fascinating story of the Albanian Archdiocese in America. The film takes the viewer on an epic journey beginning with the conquest of the Albanian territory by the Ottomans through the stories of the early immigrants who were apart of the historical Divine Liturgy served for the first time in the Albanian language. The journey continues through the years of settlement as Albanians made the United States their home and into the future.

**PREVIEW SHOWING of DVD
AT CHURCH AFTER LITURGY
DURING COFFEE HOUR
ON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST**

COST of DVD IS \$40 plus Shipping

**Order directly from the Albanian Archdiocese
Order forms available at Church
or**

<http://www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/gifts.php>

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Linda Foundos

- Our deepest sympathy to Albert, John and the whole Vani Family on the passing of Krisa Vani on Christmas Eve. Krisa and her late husband, George, were among the early members of St. Nicholas. May her memory be eternal.
- Damian Peters and his fiancée, Jenny Suyat, spent the holidays in the Los Angeles area with Jenny's family and friends. They enjoyed the warm sunshine of California and had fun working on their wedding plans for later this year.
- The Oswald family, Jim, Donna, Daniel and Alex enjoyed the slopes of Bellayre Mountain. The fresh snowfall made for great ski and snowboarding conditions.
- Barbara and Nick Filis and daughter, Cleo, enjoyed the warmth, sun and surf of Florida during this past holiday vacation. A great time was had by all.
- How happy we were to see for the first time the Jones Twins – Elizabeth and Sofia, along with their big sister Renee. Steve & Diane Jones brought their entire family from Florida to celebrate Christmas with "Baba" Larry Jance and "Xhaxhi" John. Elizabeth underwent tests in Boston Children's Hospital, and will have further surgery in the Spring. But she and her sisters looked happy and beautiful.
- Barbara & Mark Papalexis had lots of sun and fun in Palm Beach, Florida. They had a great time meeting up with family "snowbirds" that winter there and friends that have relocated there.....Betty & George Kelapire, Helen & Nuch Kelapire and Carmen & Mitch Thomas. What an enjoyable winter break and reunion too!

HEALTHY MARRIAGE & HEALTHY FAMILY SEMINAR

Sunday, February 22nd at 12:30 PM



Fr. David Fox will present information and conduct discussions dealing with key elements of Healthy Marriage and Healthy Family.

Individuals, couples and families will benefit from attending this Seminar.

Presentation of information will build on Fr. David's extensive experience in the counseling of individuals, couples and families.

Discussion will be geared to the interests and questions of attendees.

Plan on attending!!!!

THIS MONTH'S MAJOR FEAST DAYS

The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on February 2



Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses, a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

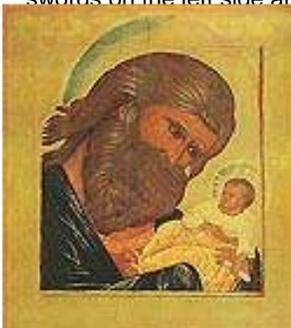
The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles,

and the glory of Thy people Israel". St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed".

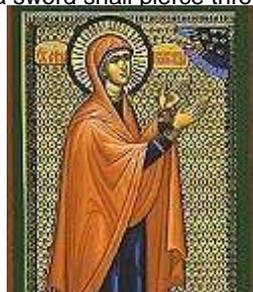
At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem". In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

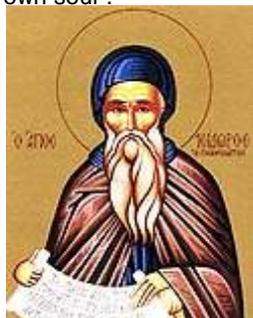
On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy." The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below. A similar icon, "Of the Seven Swords" (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right. The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Prophetess Anna: "a sword shall pierce through your own soul".



**Holy, Righteous
Simeon the God-
Receiver
February 3**



**Holy, Righteous
Anna the Prophetess
February 3**



**Venerable Isidore
of Pelusium
February 4**



**Hieromartyr Charalampus the
Bishop of Magnesia in
Thessaly
February 10**

Major Church Activities and Events

- Sun, Feb 01: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Parish celebration of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple.
-Daughters Meeting
-Albanian Video Presentation
"In Their Own Tongue"
- Sun, Feb 08: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee;
40 day Memorial for Krisa Vani
- Mon, Feb 09: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sun, Feb 15: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
- Sat, Feb 21: Liturgy, 10 a.m., Memorial Saturday
- Sun, Feb 22: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
-Sunday of the Last Judgement
-Healthy Marriage/Family Seminar
- Sun, Mar 01: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)
- Mon, Mar 02: First Day of Lent
- Wed, Mar 4: Adult Study Begins, 7 p.m.
"Gospel of Luke"

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kisha

- Feb 01: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- Feb 08: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- Feb 15: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- Feb 22: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- Mar 01: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka
- Mar 08: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



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