

THE ORTHODOX POST

February 2013

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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

There is a saying that, I trust, most students have heard at one time or another. Pithy, engaging, intended, as it is disseminated to the young and aspiring, to inspire and console. It was quoted to me as being from Einstein, but, as such tightly encapsulated sentiments tend to do, this attribution is contested, and now I hear it comes, instead, from Thomas Edison: "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." Of course, with such a mouthful of stock truth, the jokes were not far behind. Most famously: "Oy/Geesh/Oh Boy [whichever regional variant fits best], then I must be sharing the elevator with a lot of geniuses!" I am certain there are other similar jests riffing on the premise of this quote. Yet, jokes aside, there is something still notable, noble even, in this now clichéd maxim. There is confirmation that our ideas may be bright but that our labor also must shine, matching in strength and effort. Success may yet be had by those sufficiently disciplined to follow through.

Reading this missive from the parish priest, you likely expect that now I will turn to discipline and commitment in the spiritual life: the necessity to keep the fasts and structure days with a rule of prayer however small. Today, I won't. Those are things that, if you have not heard them already in sermons or announcements or lectures or previous post articles, you were not paying attention. Instead, I would like to translate this idea into a different realm, our interactions with

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each other, for here also is work worthy of commitment and discipline.

With each day and passing month, it becomes more and more my conviction that my job, despite fancy dress or title, position or (that dangerous word) authority, my job is simply to show up. I have preached at times of great need and felt myself to be a failure in conveying comfort, joy, hope, only some time later to have someone comment on how moved they had been. Truly, God was present in my faltering attempts. I have been at baptisms and in hospital rooms, funeral homes and weddings, with words eluding me, the years of education entrusted to me

Continued on Page 9

President's Message

by Bill Peters

First, a sincere "Thank You" to all of you who supported our annual Icon Auction on January 8th. Your generous donations resulted in raising more than \$6,000 which is very much needed for operating the Church.

This year Holy pascha will be on May 5th. Prior to that, the next few months will be very busy. In addition to Lent Holy Week and other Pascha season activities, we will be involved with the following:

1. *Pledge Program* – Each Parishioner's financial commitment for 2013 is needed so the Church can continue serving the community. If you haven't done so, Please turn-in your pledge card with your best possible pledge.

2. *Valentine's Day Dance* – On Saturday Night, February 9th, the Church will sponsor a Dance and Party in our Fellowship Hall. It will be a fun event with a DJ and serve as a fundraiser for the Church. Buy your tickets in advance, since capacity is limited and tickets will not be sold at the door. See Ad on page 3.

3. *Ads from Merchants Supporting the Church* – Businesses friendly to the Church have placed Ads in the Post to help financially support St. Nicholas. Look at the Ads on pages 7, 8 & 9 and if you can, shop at these stores and tell them you saw their Ad in the Church Newsletter.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!!!

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Shkurt, 2013

Këtë radhë po japim disa përgjithësime per pagezimin dhe nje vjershe nga Naim Frashëri (1846-1900)

Pagëzimi

Praktikimi i pagëzimit si symbol fetar nuk filloi me Jezusin. Pagëzimi, që fjalë për fjalë do të thotë “zhytje në ujë” (Baptismos), praktikohej nga populli i Dhjatës së Vjetër, si dhe nga popuj që I përkisnin besimeve pagane. Kuptimi universal i pagëzimit është ai i “fillimit të ri”, I “vdekjes së një mënyre të vjetër jetese” dhe i lindjes përsëri, në një mënyrë të re jetese. Prandaj Pagëzimi është gjithmonë i lidhur me Pendimin, që do të thotë nje kthim moral, një “ndryshim i mendjes”, një ndryshim në jetimin prej dickaje të vjetër dhe të keqe, në një dicka te re dhe të mirë.

Vjershë

Ti, Shqipëri më jep nder, më jep emrin Shqiptar,
Zëmrën ti ma gatove plot me dëshirë dhe me zjarr.
Shqipëri, o mëma ime, ndonëse jam i mërguar,
Dashurinë tënde kurrë zemra s’e ka harruar.
Kur dëgjon zëthin e s’ëmës, qysh e le qengji kopenë?
Blegerin dy a tri here, edhe ikën e merr dhenë;
Edhe në I prefshin udhën njëzet a tridhjetë vetë
E ta trembin, ai s’kthehet, po shkon në mes si shigjetë.
Ashtu dhe zemra ime më lë këtu, tek jam mua,
Vjen me vrap e me dëshirë aty, në viset e tua!

DAUGHTERS’ CORNER

by Linda Foundos

Our Daughters’ organization is an important part of parish life!

We serve the Church in many different ways throughout the year. To mention just a few, our many activities include supporting the Sunday School, purchasing vestments for the altar boys and priest, running fundraising events and providing food and hospitality for many Church functions.

To serve the parish well requires the help from a large number of people. Do your best to participate in our Daughters’ activities.

In the weeks ahead there will be meetings to plan the future activities of the Daughters’ and opportunities to work for the Church.

Please take part in these planning meetings! Also, volunteer your time and effort to assure the success of our sponsored activities!

COME AND JOIN US!!!!

PHOTOGRAPHER NEEDED!!!!!!



The Church needs a Volunteer who likes photography and enjoys taking photos.

This Volunteer will take digital photos of various Church events so these photos can be used in the monthly St. Nicholas Newsletter, The Orthodox Post.

If interested, contact Bill Peters at peterslwp@optimum.net or 516 509-7695



Valentine's Party

Saturday, February 9, 2012

7:00 p.m. til 12:00 a.m.

Buffet Dinner & Drinks D.J. Dancing

St. Nicholas Albanian Church

Fellowship Hall

181-14 Midland Parkway

Jamaica Estates, New York



Don't miss all the fun!!!

Donation: \$50 adults \$20 children 12 & under

Capacity is limited, so tickets will be sold in advance and NOT at the door.

To purchase your tickets, please contact:

Agathia Luka (718) 456-6582 Tina Korra (201) 338-2002

Irma Mile (516) 470-0030

***TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR –DEADLINE
DATE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th***

*Please make your check payable to
St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church.*

Pledge Program for 2013

Please Submit Your Pledge Card!!!

PLEDGE CARD

My total pledge for the year **2013**: \$ _____
 I will pay my pledge to St. Nicholas Church (please check one) Weekly Monthly Quarterly Yearly

Signature: _____

Parish Census
 We are continually updating our parish database. Please take a few minutes and fill in the information requested below.
 Please print clearly. Thank you.

Name: _____ Birthday: _____
 Spouse: _____ Birthday: _____
 Address: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone Number: () _____ Email Address(es): _____ Wedding Anniversary: _____

Other family members in household:

Name: _____ Birthday: _____ Name: _____ Birthday: _____
 Name: _____ Birthday: _____ Name: _____ Birthday: _____
 Name: _____ Birthday: _____ Name: _____ Birthday: _____

We are approaching the end of our Annual Pledge Campaign for 2013. The Campaign is when we in the St. Nicholas Parish Community indicate our expected level of financial support for the next year. We do this by praying and considering our own lives at St. Nicholas; determining the financial giving we expect to make in 2013; indicating it on a Pledge Card; and returning the Pledge Card to Church. Most pledges are in the \$500 to \$3000 range.

If you have not yet submitted your Pledge, do so as soon as possible. Please consider increasing your Pledge over last year's amount or making a generous first time Pledge for 2013.

St. Nicholas appreciates your continued generosity and it is your spiritual, physical, and monetary support that maintains the Church here for us to gather together as one Community. Thank You!!!

**Orthodox Natural
Church Development**
 Be a part of the ONCD process
 Together we can make a difference



Recently the first phase of the ONCD process was completed. The data is being evaluated and over the next several weeks the next step in the journey will be announced to the church.

Everyone will have an opportunity to participate in this process. Please make yourselves available when the time comes because your input is important.

It is through the entire community's participation that we can truly help the church.

Together we can make a difference!

Zhvillimi Natural i Kishes Orthodoxse

Merni Pjese ne Procesin e ZhNKO

Se Bashku Mund te Sjellim Ndryshimin e Deshiruar

Para pak ditesh mbaroi faza e pare e procesit per ZhNKO. Resultatet jane duke u analizuar dhe se shpejti do komunikohet tek te gjithe anetaret e Kishes fillimi i fazes se dyte te procesit.

Te gjithe anetaret do kene mundesine te marin pjese ne kete process. Ju lutemi tregohuni te gatshem per fillimit e fazes se dyte sepse opinioni juaj eshte shume i rendesishem.

Vetem nepermjet pjesmarjes se plote te gjithe anetareve mund te ndihmohet Kisha per te arritur ndryshimin e deshiruar.

Se bashku mund te sjellim ndryshimin e deshiruar !

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Neqoftese keni ndonje pyetje mbi procesin e ZhNKO, ju lutemi kontaktoni siq vijon:

Fr. Nathan, Chris Liolin, Tomi Beno, Mark Papalexis, Nick Filis

House Blessings Continue



Avoid the rush!

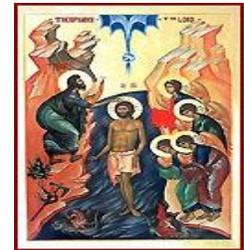
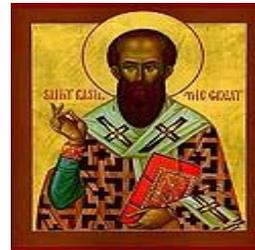
Speak to Fr. Nathan now about coming
to bless your home.

Church: 718-380-5684,
Cell: 208-818-3372

ICON AUCTION A SUCCESS !

A popular tradition continued Sunday, January 8th, when St. Nicholas held its annual Icon Auction after Liturgy.

The Church was SRO with parishioners who put in bids for their favorite icons. This popular fund-raising event raised significant funds for our Parish.



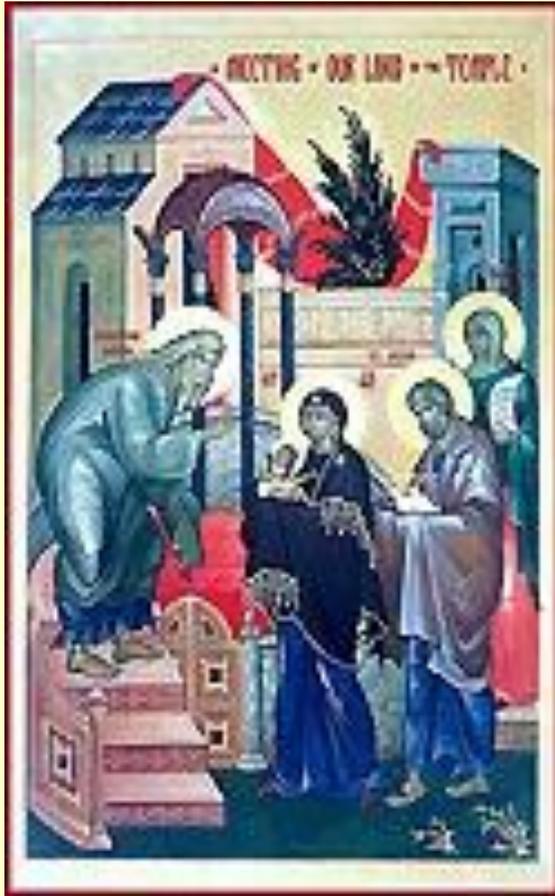
Thank you to everyone
who made this a success !!!



CHURCH SCHOOL
(Sunday School & Albanian Class)

***CLASSES ARE
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**BRING YOUR CHILDREN
TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS**



THE MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE –

Commemorated on February 2nd

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, daughter of Phanuel, "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.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN FEBRUARY



Feb 06
St. Photios



Feb 08
St. Theodore



Feb 10
St. Haralampos



Feb 17
Hieromartyr Blaise



Feb 27
St. Raphael
of Brooklyn

PASTOR’S MESSAGE - Continued from Page 1

entrusted to me falling seemingly inert and ill-used as I stumble to shape thoughts fitting for these occasions. And still, God was present. People insist, despite my internal protestations, that faith and love came through somehow. For this, I cannot take credit. I will own the bad sermons and poorly prepared speeches. For everything else, I was just there, moving my mouth when called upon to do so; I just showed up, my feet carrying me to this 99% of life and “perspiration”.

We all want or should want to be better Christians (if you don’t, then we really do need to speak), but I believe that sometimes we are shy in asking how this is to be done. My first suggestion and my own and regular advice even to myself is simply to show up, to be present not just at the services of the Church but to be present, aware, and caring to the needs of others. Despite our flaws and inadequacies, God will be there. He comforts and consoles and gives life where we permit Him context. When we at last shake off our need to feel useful, this long-practiced and even cherished egotism, we give Him room to appear to those around us. Every one of us in her or his own way is called to the priestly task and ministry of making God known, and there is right now a terrible need for Him to be known.

We blame many things today—the internet and cell phones, the false intimacy of text messages or Facebook, compromises that must be made to be citizens of this age—we can and do blame them all for the alienation that seems now endemic, epidemic even. A great, gnawing loneliness is the demon of our time, but its mere inspection, the list of its causes or symptoms, does not suffice as a cure. We all are needed. The 99% of our lives is needed to bear witness to that God Who does not forsake or abandon. He, the One Who shows up.

As usual, St. Paul says it best: Bear each other’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:2)

Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church

Please look at the Ads and support these Merchants by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible.

Tell the Merchant that you are from St, Nicholas Church and saw their Ad in the Church’s Monthly Newsletter!!!

For New Ads Please Contact – Tomi Beno at (917) 952-9252

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Together we can make a difference

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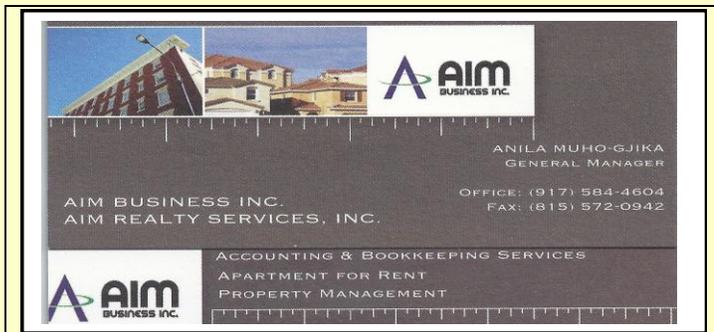
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**PLACE
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AD
HERE**

Major Church Activities and Events

**Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
February 2, 9, 16 and 23**

- Fri, Feb 01: Vespers, 7:00 p.m.; Meeting of the Lord In the Temple**
- Sat, Feb 02: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Meeting of the Lord In The Temple**
- Sun, Feb 03: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
- Wed, Feb 13: Financial Review Committee 5:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**
- Sat, Feb 09: Valentines Day Dance, 7:00 p.m.**
- Sun, Feb 10: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
- Sun, Feb 17: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**
- Sun, Feb 24: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

House Blessings continue

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

- Feb 03: Stefan BALTADORI/Izzy TSAMBLAKOS**
- Feb 10: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE**
- Feb 17: Petrika TROJA / Tomi BENO**
- Feb 24: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE**
- Mar 03: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS**

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
181-14 Midland Parkway
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