THE ORTHODOX POST

January 2013

Volume IX, Issue 1

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

The new year has come, and in these first couple months, as I warn my friends and family, I become a ghost. From the Bronx to Staten Island, Connecticut to New Jersey, and all those places in between, I wander like a shade, never at rest but flitting from home to home, table to table. Only strangers hope to reach me on the phone at this time; everyone else knows to leave a message. It may not be right away, but I will get back to you.

I have learned, as I wander and sit with so many, how broad our community is, how educated, how well travelled. As though by proxy, I travel too: vacation photos and shots of children each year a little bigger, glimpses of colleges applied to and graduated from—proud parents at the side, pictures of loved places and loved ones in Albania and everywhere else. These are all pulled out (or, increasingly, pulled up on screens large and small) for my annual inspection, for me to catch up on all these lives so full and so active that are our community. I have learned that there is hardly a country in this world I can name where someone does not have a relative or friend of a friend or, at very least, a restaurant suggestion. A chain of relationships spanning the globe, this is St. Nicholas Church.

I am thankful to travel to you all during these visits. From house to house, the same holy water is sprinkled, the same prayers recited. These spring and winter meetings become for me a pilgrimage of sorts. And like all holy journeys, this pilgrimage must have a sacred aim. It needs a destination and goal. My wanderings have two. **Continued on Page 7**

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President's Message

by Bill Peters

Happy and Healthy New Year!!!!!!

Now that our celebration of the Blessed Christmas Season is over, we look ahead to the many Church activities and challenges of the new year.

The Feast Day of Theophany (Blessing of the Waters) will be celebrated at Liturgy on Sunday, January 6th. Fr. Nathan will start visiting Parishioners for Home Blessings. Make your appointments with him as soon as possible.

On Sunday, January 6th, the Presentation of the Icons (Icon Auction) will be held after Liturgy. Come, learn about the Icons and bid/donate on your favorite Icons. Also, Blessed Water in small bottles will be available for Parishioners to take home.

On Sunday, January 13th, both Sunday School and Albanian Class will begin again.

It is important for our children to receive a good religious education, so Parents, please make arrangements to bring your Child/Children to Church every Sunday. Speak to Fr. Nathan and the Teachers for more information.

We need your help to complete the 2012 Pledge Card Program. Please fill-in the family information on your Pledge Card and submit it as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. To serve the community, the Church needs your participation, your family information and your financial Pledge for 2013.

Finally, look at the Ads on pages 9, 10 & 11!!! They are from merchants who are friends of the Church and who provide financial support to St. Nicholas Parish. We ask you all to support them by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible. When you go to the merchants, let them know you saw their Ad in the St. Nicholas monthly newsletter. More information is provided on page 9.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)

by A. Llupa Janar, 2013

Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë nga "Zbulesa" e kapitullit të parë "Burimet e Dokrtinës së Krishterë" dhe nje pjese nga vjersha "Anes Lumenjve" te Nolit

...Titulli i parë që iu dha Jezusit nga populli, është titulli RABAI, që do të thotë MËSUES. Pasuesit e Tij u quajtën dishepuj, që do të thotë NXËNËS. Pikësëpari, Jezusi erdhi tek njerzit si Mësuesi i dërguar nga Perëndia. Ai u mëson atyre vullnetin e Perëndisë dhe e bën Perëndinë të njohur tek ata. Ardhja e Jezusit si mësues është një aspektet i të qënurit të tij Krisht, Mesia. Fjala KRISHT është përkthimi në greqisht i fjalës hebraike MESIA, që do të thotë I Lyeri i Perëndisë. Ishte parathëne, se kur të vijë Mesia, njerzit "do të mësoheshin nga Perëndia"(Isaia 54:13; John 6:45).Jezusi erdhi tek njerzit si mësuesi hyjnor. Ai thotë në shumë raste, që fjalët e tij janë të Perëndisë. Ai foli si "një që ka autoritet", jo si mësuesit e zakondshëm hebrenj. Ai akuzon ata që nuk pranojnë mësimin e tij, sikur nuk pranojnë Perëndinë vetë.
..Ai që beson tek une, nuk me beson mua, por atë që më dërgoi mua. Edhe ai që më sheh, sheh atë që më dërgoi. Kam ardhur si drita për botën... sepse nuk fola prej vetes, por Ati që më dërgoi më dha porosi çfarë të them. Ajo që them është ajo që Ati më ka udhëzuar.(Xhon 12:44-50)
Jezusi i mësoi njerzit, jo vetëm me fjalët e Tij, por me veprat e Tij; dhe për më tepër me vetë personin e Tij. Ai thotë, se Ai është e Vërteta dhe Drita. Ai e tregon veten e Tij, jo vetëm që flet para Perëndisë, por që ai vetë është FJALA e GJALLË e PERËNDISË në mish njerëzor, LOGOS (fjala) që është i përjetshëm dhe i pakrijuar, por që u bë njeri si Jezusi i Nazaretit për ta bërë Perëndinë të njohur në botë.
Në fillim ishte Fjala (LOGOS) dhe Fjala ishte me Perëndinë, edhe Fjala ishte Perëndia. Ajo ishte që në fillim me Perëndinë. Të gjitha u bënë me anë të saj, edhe pa Atë, nuk u bë asgjë që është bërë. Në Atë ishte jete dhe jeta ishte drita e njerzve. Edhe drita ndrit në errësirë, edhe errësira nuk e kuptoi. Ishte drita e vërtetë , që ndrit çdo njeri kur vjen në botë. Ishte në botë dhe bota u bë nga Ai, por bota nuk e njohu. Edhe fjala u bë mish dhe ndenji ndër ne (dhe pamë lavdinë e Tij, lavdi porsi të vetëmlinduri nga Ati), plot me hir e me të vërtetë.Edhe të gjithë ne morëm prej të mbushurit të atij, edhe hir mbi hir. Sepse ligji u dha me anë te Moisiut, por hiri dhe e verteta me anë të Jezu Krishtit. Asnjë kurrë s'e ka parë Perëndinë, vec i Vetëmlinduri Bir, që është në gji të Atit. Ai na e tregoi.....
Anës Lumenjve

Continued in the column to the left.

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

We thank you for all
for the help you provide
The Daughters' in serving
the Church and Parishioners.

Hope you had an

Enjoyable and Blessed Christmas!!!

&

Best Wishes for

a Very

Anes Lumenjve...

Ku e lam' e ku na mbeti
Vaj vatani e mjer mileti
Anës detit i palarë
Anës dritës i paparë,

Pranë sofrës i pangrënë,
Pranë dijes i panxënë,
Lakuriq dhe i dregosur,
Trup e shpirt i sakatosur?

Dhe një zë vëngon nga lumi,
Më bucet, më zgjon nga gjumi,
Se mileti po gatitet,
Se tirani lebetitet,
Se pëlcet, kërcet furtuna,
Fryhet Vjosa, derdhet Buna,
Skuqet Semani dhe Drini,
Dridhet beu dhe zengjini,

Se pas vdekjes ndriti jeta,
Dhe kudo gjemon trumpeta,
Ngrehuni dhe bjeruni,
Korrini dhe shtypini,
Katundar' e punëtorë,
Që nga Shkodra gjer në Vlorë

House Blessings Begin

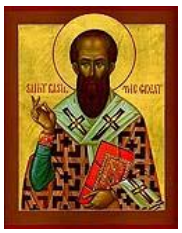
Avoid the rush!

Speak to Fr. Nathan now about coming to bless your home. Appointments may be made for any time after January 6.

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

ICON AUCTION

Sunday, January 6th - After Liturgy



Come and Bid in the Auction
or Make a Donation
in Honor of Your Favorite ICONS

ICON RETURN

Bring in your Icons
from last year's Icon Auction,
as soon as possible!!!

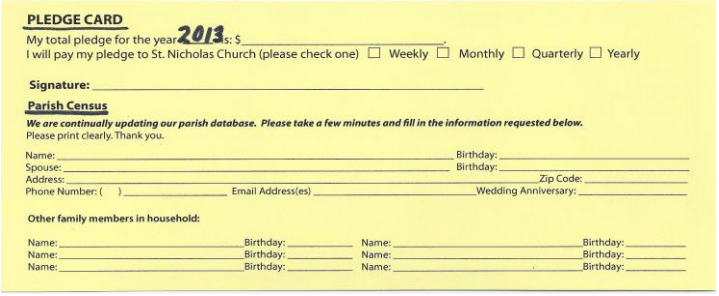
We need them to prepare for
the next Icon Auction.

CHURCH SCHOOL
(Sunday School & Albanian Class)

CLASSES BEGIN ON JANUARY 13TH

BRING YOUR CHILDREN
TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS!!!

Pledge Program for 2013
Please Submit
Your Pledge Card!!!


PLEDGE CARD
My total pledge for the year 2013 is: $_____.
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!!!

Over the next few months we will all have an opportunity to take part in the Church's future.
Your participation and commitment to be part of this process is greatly appreciated.
Please look for these opportunities and let's all join hands and grow together.

Notices will be in the Sunday Bulletin, announcements after Sunday services, in The Orthodox Post and taped on the wall by the office and kitchen area.

Together we can make a difference!

Zhvillimi Natural i Kishes Orthodoxse

Ju lutemi merrni pjese ne procesin e ZHNKO. Te gjithe se bashku munde tja arrijme qellimit.

Gjate ketyre dy muajve te ardhsem te gjithe do kemi mundesine te marim pjese ne procesin e zhvillimit per te ardhmen e Kishes. Pjesmarja dhe angazhimi juaj maksimal ne kete process eshte shume i mirepritur.

Ju lutemi ndiqni me vemendje kete proces dhe shpresojme te gjithe se bashku te arrijme nje nivel me te larte.

Ju lutemi shihni me vemendje per keto njoftime ne Buletinin e se Dieles, ne Leternjoftimin e Kishes dhe ne Fletnjofimet qe do vendosen ne mure prane zyres dhe guzhines se Kishes.

Te gjithe se bashku munde tja arrijme qellimit!

Archbishop Nikon Visits for St. Nicholas Celebration

On Sunday, December 9th, Archbishop Nikon joined the Parish in celebrating our St. Nicholas' Feast Day. A large number of Parishioners attended the Liturgy celebrated with Archbishop Nikon. The service began with an official welcoming of the Archbishop by the Clergy and the Parish Council President. Afterward a sold-out crowd attended the dinner held in our Fellowship Hall and the children presented Archbishop Nikon with flowers. Also, The Daughters of St. Nicholas held a raffle which added to the fun of the event. All had a wonderful time!

A special thanks goes to our Cooks for a wonderful meal – Larry Jance, Mark Papalexis, Nasi Pavllo, Andrea Kutali, Robert Korra and John Jance. Also, a thank you to Linda Foundos and The Daughters for their efforts, our ticket sellers and the ladies who managed the tickets at the door – Tina Korra and Silvana Kutali.

Also, on Saturday Eve, December 8th, several Parishioners had the opportunity to dine with Archbishop Nikon.

Christmas Pageant, Pancake Breakfast and Santa's Visit

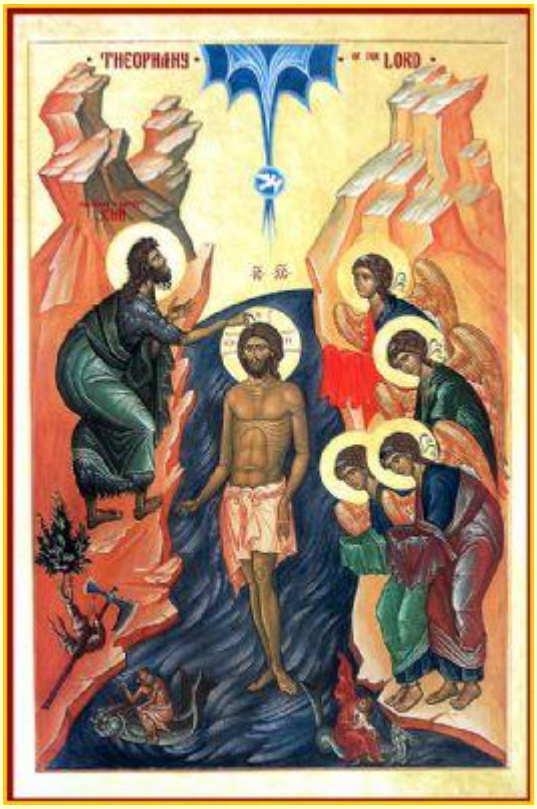
On Sunday, December 23rd, an overflow crowd of Parishioners celebrated three festive activities.

First, the traditional Christmas Pageant was performed by our Sunday School and Teen Group under the direction of their Teachers – Joanne Heiser, Tina Peters and Adelina Llupa. It was enjoyed by all and concluded with everyone singing a number of Christmas Carols and a holiday greeting in Albanian.

This was followed by our popular Pancake Breakfast led by chef Tina Peters. Finally, Santa paid us a visit. He met with the children and gave them gifts. Santa also met with many adults.

Enjoy the photos below describing the joyful celebrations!!!

Santa's Visit with the Children & Parents



HOLY THEOPHANY – Commemorated on January 6th

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord. God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by the St John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine "those who sat in darkness," and "in the region of the shadow of death", and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind. The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions. From the second century we have the testimony of St Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

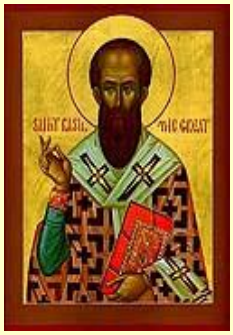
There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and St Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany. The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. St John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but "to bury human sin by water," to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify "the nature of water" and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Indivisible. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).

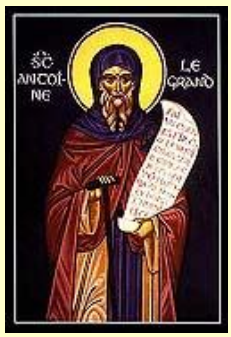
On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN JANUARY



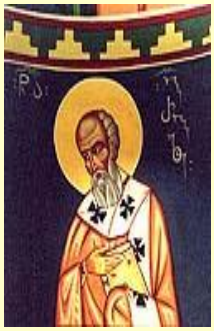
Jan 01
St. Basil

Jan 07
St. John
The Baptist



Jan 17
St. Anthony
the Great

Jan 18
St. Athanasius
the Theologian



Jan 25
St. Gregory

Jan 30
The Three
Hierarchs

PASTOR'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

First, I enter your homes as holy places, a fact that we recall and confirm with the symbolic language of prayer and gesture: splashed water and hymns. God dwells in your houses as He does in the Church. He does not forget this, but we do. So we must remind ourselves periodically that the same love and respect, the same charity and patience, the same seeking of Him and His holy ways, is the rule of our lives on Sundays and every day. Not every home I visit is full of icons like the heavy-hung walls of the Church (though some come close), but we all live or must strive to live aware that we are surrounded by more precious icons, for we are ever confronted with each other, the living images and reminders of Christ's call to love and care. Our homes are the nurseries of our faith; they are where we first learn to be Christians, protected and safe and holy.

Second, I come to be with you to remind you and me that we can never be strangers, for we are not simply random bodies drawn together periodically. No, we also are family, sharing something more essential than blood or surname. What is between us, our bond and patrimony, is Christ. Travelling far and wide in three states and five boroughs, losing myself in neighborhoods familiar and unfamiliar, I have never been disappointed, for I have found Him at every stop and in every home.

New months stretch before us, busy ones assuredly, full of sadness and joys that we cannot yet know. Yet we can peer into this future with hope and courage, confident in the knowledge of two unfailing truths: Christ is in our midst, and we are ever in the midst of each other. We are always in the right place to find and know God.

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

Orthodox Natural Church Development

Be a part of the ONCD process

Together we can make a difference

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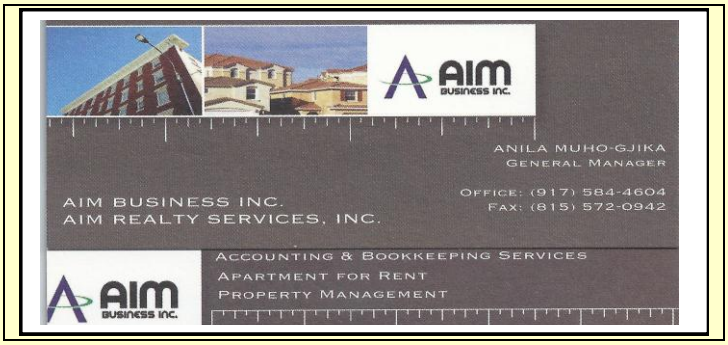

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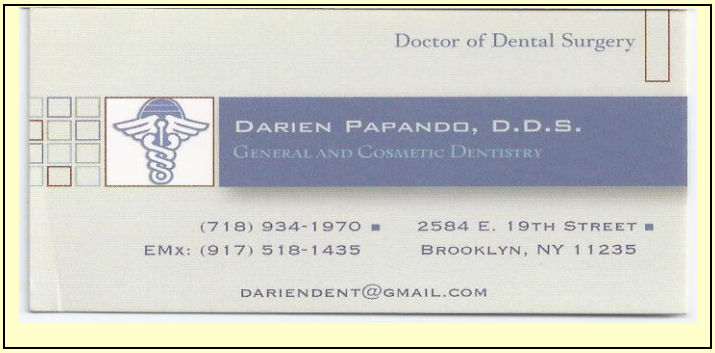
email: Metaeva@yahoo.com

Proprietor: Frank Meta



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718 658-4434

PLACE

YOUR

AD

HERE

Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
January 5, 12, 19 and 26

Tues, Jan 01: Divine Liturgy, Circumcision of The Lord, St. Basil; 10:00 a.m.

Sun, Jan 06: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Holy Theophany, Blessing of Water, Icon Presentation

Mon, Jan 07: House Blessings Begin

Sun, Jan 13: Divine Liturgy
Sunday School & Albanian Class Resumes

Mon, Jan 14: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs, Jan 17: Prayers, 10:00 a.m., St. Anthony

Sun, Jan 20: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Church School resumes

Sun, Jan 27: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

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

Jan 06: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE

Jan 13: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

Jan 20: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

Jan 27: Robert KORRA/Lou FOUNDOS

Feb 03: Stefan BALTADORI/Izzy TSAMBLAKOS

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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