

THE ORTHODOX POST

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St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432
Web site: www.stnicholasalbanian.org E-mail: fr.nathan@stnicholasalbanian.org Tel: (718) 380-5684

Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Very shortly now, this year on June 12, our Paschal cries of "Christ is Risen!" will cease as we enter into a new season. On the thirteenth, we celebrate Christ's return to heaven, another triumphal entry as He goes, having proven Himself victorious over our afflictions of sin and death, to resume His rightful place at the right-hand of the Father. We will celebrate this Ascension, as the Church directs us, but at the same time enter into an odd period, a strange season of waiting and absence.

I have long thought this one of the most peculiar times of the Church calendar, even one of the strangest moments of all our history, the story of our Faith. What is there to celebrate when Christ has left the scene? His disciples, in one of the preparatory hymns of the feast, beg not to be left orphaned upon the earth, unimaginable, their sense of loss. Having known the Lord personally, even intimately for some, what must it have been like for His friends then to watch Him grow distant and disappear? Having hoped, wept in disappointment at the tomb, and wept again with fear and joy at discovering empty this same, how must it have been to seem to lose again that noted friend and teacher and savior? Particularly for His mother, who in the icon of the Ascension stands in the midst of the apostles, utterly calm amidst their confusion,

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placid amidst their grief; she is losing her son again but seems confident, as she always is, of some inner, hidden, and truer reality.

To me, this day of departure strikes a sad note—bleak even—as Christ our God returns to the realm of abstraction, leaving us with ideas, ideals, and (when we are lucky) hope. Though never one to advocate for more fasting or days of abstinence, I have wondered for a long time whether perhaps this might be appropriate here, a short fast in this uneasy week and a half between Ascension and Pentecost, between loss and the fulfillment

Continued on Page 5

President's Message

by Bill Peters

Hope that you all had a Blessed Pascha and a Happy Easter!!!

Looking ahead, we have 2 major events – our Annual Picnic on Fathers' Day, June 16th and our Golf Outing, October 7th. Save the dates and try your best to participate.

Also, in June, in order to raise money to help pay off the remainder of our Church Building Construction Loan, we will begin selling Raffles for a multi-year lease of a luxury car or a cash award. The drawing of the winner will be in the Fall. Be on the look out to support this effort by selling Raffles to friends and relatives as well as buying some for yourself. More information will be available soon.

As you can see from the articles and the photos that appear in the Orthodox Post, St. Nicholas is a very active Church. This is made possible by the work of many people. To continue having the Parish do a good job in serving the community, it is important for every Parishioner to take an active part in the life of the Church, in both religious and social activities. Talk to Fr. Nathan or members of the Parish Council to see how you can become more active, provide new viewpoints and work for the Church.

At the April 21st General Parish Meeting, new and reelected individuals were elected to the 2013-14 Parish Council. At its May Meeting, the Council elected its officers for the next 12 months. They are:

President:	Jim Liolin
Vice President	Tomi Beno
Treasurer	Lou Foundos
Secretary	John Jance

Though I am stepping down as President, I will continue being on the Council and serving the St. Nicholas Parish. I thank you all for the privilege of serving you and the support you have provided to me and the Parish.

I wish Jim Liolin, as new President, and the new Council much success in serving St. Nicholas. Your ongoing support is important in achieving success in serving the community

We look forward to seeing you in Church!!!

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Maj, 2013

Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë nga “Ungjilli sipas Lukës” me titull “Ringjallja: Ndarja e Fundit”. Megjithëse i festuam Pashkët, ringjallja e Krishtit gjithmonë është aktuale... dhe një lutje nga “Anafora” e librit “Adhurimi” i Thomas Hopko.

...Në këto fjalë e sipër, papritur, vetë Jezusi qëndroi mes tyre, dhe tha: “Ju përshëndes!” Ata, të habitur dhe me plot frikë, mendonin se po shihnin një fantazmë. Por ai u tha: “Përse çuditëni? Pse lindin këto dyshime në mëndjen tuaj? Shikoni duart dhe këmbët e mijat: jam unë! Më prekni dhe binduni! Një fantazmë nuk është prej mishit dhe eshtrave çfarë po shihni se kam unë.” Ndërsa u thoshte këto, u tregoi këmbët dhe duart. Ata ende s’mund të besonin nga gëzimi dhe çudia, prandaj u tha: “A keni këtu gjë për të ngrënë?” Ata i sollën një kurm peshku të pjekur. Jezusi e mori dhe e hëngri para syve të tyre. Pastaj u tha: “Kur isha me ju, ju thashë: “Gjithshka që u shkrua për mua në ligjin e Moshut, në Profetët dhe në Psalmët duhet të plotësohet.” Dhe ai i ndihmoi ta kuptonin siç duhet shkrimin e Shenjtë. “Këtu është shkruar,” u shpjegoi, “Mesia duhet të vuajë dhe të vdesë, dhe të ringjallet nga të vdekurit ditën e tretë. Njerëzve të të gjithë popujve duhet t’u shpallet se atyre u ofrohet kthimi nga mëkatet te Zoti për ndjesën e mëkateve, me kusht që të besojnë në Mesinë. Dhe kjo duhet të fillojë në Jeruzalem.” Ju jeni dëshmitarë të të gjitha këtyre dhe ju do të përgjigjeni për këtë. Por unë do t’ju dërgoj Shpirtin që Ati im ju ka premtuar. Rrini këtu në qytet, deri sa të forcoheni me fuqinë nga Perëndia.”

Pastaj i mori me vete gjer në skaj të Bet-Anjës. Atje i ngriti duart për t’i bekuar. Dhe ndërsa po i bekonte ata, u nda nga ata dhe u ngrit lart në qiell. Por ata ranë përmbys para tij, dhe e adhuruan. Pastaj u kthyen të gëzuar në Jeruzalem, dhe vazhdimisht ishin në Tempull duke lavdëruar Perëndinë.

Continued on Page 5

DAUGHTERS’ CORNER

by Linda Foundos

Our “snow bird” Tina Peters returned from Florida just in time to whip up some pancake batter for our annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. As usual, it was well received. Our heartfelt thanks to Tina and all her helpers. It’s a wonderful tradition. Also, we couldn’t have done without the talent & effort of Tina Peters and all her helpers on Good Friday morning decorating the epitaphion with such an artistic flair! Thank you to Izzy Tsamblakos for once again ordering & delivering the beautiful flowers to church. Every bit of cooperation just makes every task & event that much easier & successful.

On Sunday, May 19th, the Daughters had their spring luncheon at Dazies Restaurant in Sunnyside. It was a huge success! The restaurant is lovely, the food was delicious, and the company was friendly & fun! What a great way to spend a drizzly afternoon! We look forward to next time!

We hope you all enjoyed Mothers’ Day; and we wish you an equally great Fathers’ Day! Parents are definitely to be loved and appreciated for all that they invest in us as children of their time, love, attention & guidance. Being a parent is most certainly an awesome undertaking in so many respects. And in the end, love is what it’s all about!

FATHER ADAM IS LEAVING

Join Us to Say Goodbye – June 2



On Sunday, June 2, the Parish will have a Special Coffee Hour to Congratulate Fr. Adam Horstman on his ordination to the priesthood and to say “Goodbye” to him and his family.

We wish Fr. Adam, Trish and their children “a Fond Farewell and Best Wishes for the Future!!!” in their new assignment at St. Anthony the Great Parish in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church



Sunday, June 16th – Fathers' Day

Manorhaven Beach Park

Port Washington, NY

11:00 a.m. til dark

Games for all Ages!!

Volleyball Basketball Handball Softball Tennis Soccer

Donation: \$5 per person or \$15 per family

Directions from NYC:

Long Island Expressway to Searingtown Road, Exit #36. (becomes Port Washington Blvd, 101 N)

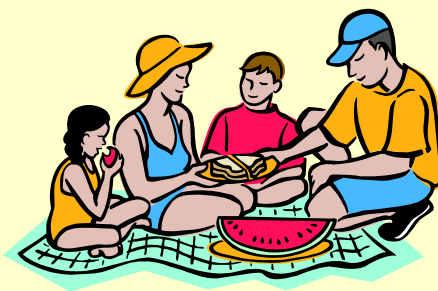
Drive 2.4 miles to Main Street (Post Office on corner) and turn left.

Drive 1 mile to Shore Rd and turn right.

Drive 0.8 miles and turn left on Manorhaven Blvd.

Drive 0.8 miles to Manorhaven Park and turn left.

***** Special Note:** Liturgy will be held at St. Nicholas Church at 9:30 a.m.



Fun

Fellowship

Food

Please clean-up your area before you leave the park!!

St. Nicholas Golf Outing



COME AND PLAY – MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH !!!!

16th ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING

Remember last year's Golf Outing? For those of you who participated last year and had a great time, and also those of you who did not and missed a great outing, we would be pleased to have you join us on Monday, October 7, 2013 when we will be holding our 16th Annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing at the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course. This is an exceptional golf course with challenging holes and beautiful views.

We start with registration in the morning and tee-off at noon striking that little magic white ball hoping it goes where we wish, but frequently in another direction. As we move along in good company, we have hamburgers at the pit stop and continue wishing to hit the Hole-in-One and win \$10,000. After a beautiful round of golf, we proceed to the 19th Hole at the Woodlands Restaurant in the Clubhouse; followed by a great dinner, prizes/awards and the grand raffle. The results of all this is a great day and evening and a great fundraiser for our Church.

We are reaching out for your participation and/or signing up your friends and relatives to join us at this year's event. The cost to golf, lunch and dinner is \$650.00 for a foursome or \$175.00 per person. We also want to encourage you to solicit sponsors for hole sponsorships for \$250.00, and/or prize/merchandise sponsorships for \$100-\$300 for the raffle, which helps raise funds for our church programs.

We do hope that you will participate and invite your friends to join us. Registration/sponsorship forms are available in the office or from any committee member. Please make an effort to help and respond early so we can plan to accommodate everyone.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any one of the members listed, or call 516-520-5227 and ask for Lou or Al.

The Golf Committee: Phil Foundos and Tomi Beno: Co-Chairmen

ORTHODOX NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Orthodox Natural Church Development program is progressing to the next phase. We have had several people volunteer their homes to host a Focus Group. One Focus Group was held in April at Jim and Donna Oswald's Home. In June, two more are already scheduled at Agathia & Ilia Luka's Home and Tina & Robert Korra's Home. Other Focus Groups are planned. Sign-up for one of them. The sign-up sheets are at Church, downstairs on the easel at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

This is a great opportunity for all of us to have our voices heard as we work collectively to bring St. Nicholas to the next level.

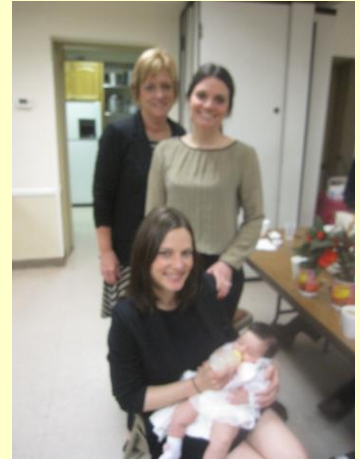
Together we can make a difference!!!

If you have any questions please feel free to speak with:

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

Mother's Day Celebration

On Sunday, May 12th, Mothers' Day was celebrated at St. Nicholas Church by honoring Mothers, both past and present. They were blessed in prayers said during the Liturgy. Also, all ladies were given flowers. And as a special treat, the men prepared and served them a deluxe breakfast.



KENDI SHQIP - Continued from Page 2

... NJE LUTJE NGA "ANAFORA"...

Edhe ne, Zot njeridashës, bashkë me këto fuqi të lumura thërresim e themi: "I shenjtë dhe tërëshenjtë Je, Ti dhe Biri i Vetëmlindur dhe Shpirti Yt i Shenjtë. I Shenjtë dhe i Tërëshenjtë Je dhe madhështore është lavdia Jote; Ti që e deshe botën Tëndë, aq sa edhe Birin tënd të vetëmlindur edhe, që çdo njeri që beson tek Ai të mos humbasë, por të ketë jetë të amëshuar; i cili erdhi dhe plotësoi gjithë misionin hyjnor për ne, natën që dorëzohej, ose më mirë dorëzonte vehten e Tij, për jetën e botës, si mori bukën në duart e Tij të shenjta, të pacënuara dhe të papërlyera, si falenderoi dhe e bekoj, e shenjtëroi e theu dhe ua dha nxënësve dhe Apostujve të Tij të shenjtë duke u thënë: "Merrni hani, ky është trupi im, që thyhet për juve për ndjesën e mëkateve. Amin." Gjithashtu mori dhe potirin (kupen) duke thënë: "Pini prej këtij të gjithë, ky është gjaku im i Dhjatës së Re, që derdhet për juve dhe për shumë, për ndjesën e mëkateve." Duke kujtuar pra këtë porosi shpëtimtare dhe gjithë sa janë bërë për ne, Kryqin, Varrin, ngjalljen e triditshme, të ngjiturit në Qiejt, të ndenjurit në të djathtë, Ardhjen e dytë të lavdëruar, "Të tuat nga të tuat, ty të blatojmë, nga të gjitha dhe për të gjitha!"

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - Continued from Page 1

of promise. But the Church does otherwise, prescribing only the normal routine of Wednesday and Friday discipline. No mourning is here appropriate, just regular life and preparation, and in this lies a gem of truth outshining mere sentiments of perceived loss.

Learning to live with God is, in part, learning to live without Him. This is something hard for a priest to write, since it is an integral and constant part of my job to work at reminding everyone that God is ever real and vivid and near. I am the one who has to turn mid-service and proclaim with assurance that "Christ is in our midst! Krishti midis nesh!" However, the assurance of touch or physical embrace eludes us for now. We do not have the luxury of St. Thomas to have our doubts mightily and completely revoked, but dwell, instead, in a world in which it is very easy to find God absent. Our situation then is not so different than Christ's friends and followers wending their way home from Mt. Olivet, their path ours too, their confusion: where is God now?

In removing Himself physically from this domain, Christ invites us to become participants in making Him real to ourselves and to others. Not only does His purported disappearance help us to realize that God is not bound by those familiar aspects of space and time (who wants a god that can only be here or there, a god who might miss, neglect, or forget something?), but also He entrusts us with a great task, the charge to know and proclaim Him. A line from a Sufi poet speaks this more eloquently than I could hope to: "Remembering is the one divine command." Our holy Faith and traditions, thankfully, give us many opportunities for such remembrance. Saying our daily prayers speaks of God's presence in this troubled world. Venerating icons of Christ and His saints testifies to this reality. Learning to be mindful that He is with us particularly when we serve those who are monetarily, physically, emotionally, or spiritually impoverished and, in serving them, serve Him, demonstrates a world not abandoned by God but rich and wealthy in opportunities to find Him. Maybe this is why the Theotokos can be so calm in the icon, at that moment when she loses her Son yet again. She knows that He cannot really be gone, that she cannot really be without Him, that we the bystanders cannot really be forsaken, since she cannot erase His memory from her heart, His work from her hands, His words from her lips and mind. He is and ever shall be with us!

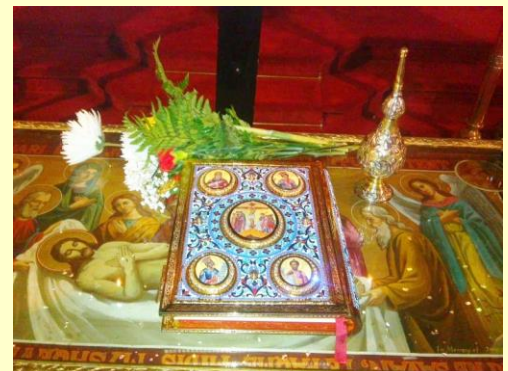
Celebrating Pascha in Albania

Very large crowds celebrated Pascha at the Resurrection Service at the Cathedral in Tirana, Albania. This is a demonstration of the significant growth of Orthodoxy in Albania. God has worked mightily over the past 22 years to resurrect the Church in Albania. Through these photographs one can share some of the beauty and the joy that was experienced through Holy Week and the celebration of Pascha in Albania. These pictures convey more than any words could about the miracle that has happened in Albania.



Daughters' of St. Nicholas Decorate Epitaphi

On Friday, May 3rd, a group sponsored by the Daughters' of St. Nicholas gathered at the Church to decorate the Epitaphi for the Good Friday Lamentation Services. A special "Thank You" to the decorators who included Pauline Logore, Tom Straczynski, Christine Beno, Daniella Beno, Tina Peters, Joanne Heiser, Eli Troja, Sonya Troja, Barbara Filis and Fr. Nathan. The floral arrangement was beautiful. A "Thank You" also goes to Izzy Tsamblakos for ordering and delivering the flowers. They all did a great job!!!



Good Friday Celebration for Pascha at St. Nicholas

Holy Week was a joyous time in our preparation for Great and Holy Pascha. Evening Services for Holy Unction Services on Wednesday, the Passion Gospel Readings on Thursday and the Lamentation Services on Good Friday were all most moving in our journey toward Pascha. Below are photos of Good Friday Services.



**HOLY PENTECOST –****Commemorated on June 23rd**

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7×7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: $49 + 1$, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in

Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom. **THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST:** The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon: "Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation. All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory. Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. –

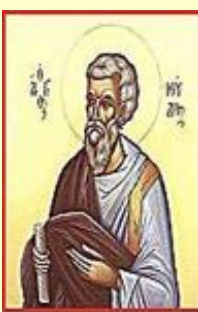
Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN JUNE

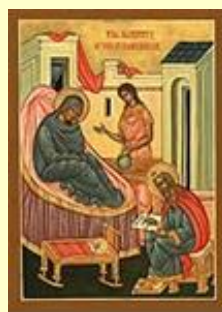
Leavetaking of
Pascha
June 12



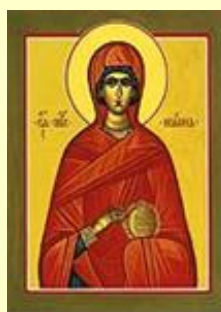
The Ascension of
Our Lord
June 12



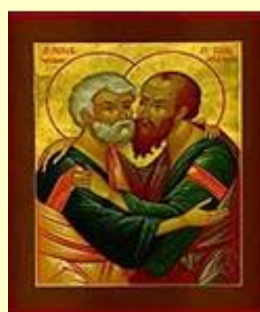
The Holy Apostle
Jude
June 19



Nativity of St. John
the Baptist
June 24



St. Joanna the
Myrrhbearer
June 27



Saints Peter and Paul
June 29

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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LION ASSOCIATES

Phone: (914) 670-0138
E-mail: jliolin@lionadv.com
www.lionadv.com

Media Relations
Content Marketing



Erica Croke
Agent

New York Life Insurance Company
100 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, NY 11753
(516) 204-5400
ecroke@ft.newyorklife.com




Elona Zekthi, D.D.S.
72-35 112th Street PR 8
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Major Church Activities and Events

**Vespers – every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29**

**Sun, June 02: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Fr. Adam “Goodbye” Coffee Hour**

Mon, June 03: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Sun, June 09: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Wed, June 12: Vespers Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.

**Sun, June 16: Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.; Parish Picnic at
Manorhaven Beach Park**

**Sat, June 22: Memorial Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.;
Blessing of Graves at Mt. Tomori**

Sun, June 23: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Pentecost

**Sat, June 29: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Sts. Peter
and Paul**

Sun, June 30: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Lista e shërbimit të dielave në kishë

June 02: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE

June 09: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS

June 16: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

June 23: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

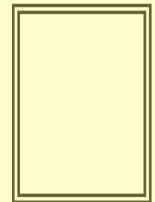
June 30: Stefan BALTADORI/Izzy TSAMBLAKOS

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