

THE ORTHODOX POST

October 2013

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

I will be away for much of October, as many of you are already aware. Though I will be here at the start of the month to perform my inevitable role of making others feel better about their swings and stance and putts at our annual golf tournament, I will be flying eastward a short two days later over the Atlantic and onward to Albania. "Why are you going?" I have been asked occasionally, and I like to reply somewhat flippantly that I am making this trip in order to learn how to curse. There are any number of words and phrases, after all, that no one is willing to teach the priest, and I aim to be well rounded. More seriously, though, I am going for a couple distinct reasons. The first is to continue my study of the Albanian language, a pursuit already of these last couple years now to be intensified. The second is less concrete but probably more important: I am going on pilgrimage.

When we think of pilgrims, moving quickly beyond the dour black hats and oversized buckles, those stock images of

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

Time and Talent: What Can You Give?

Time, Talent and Treasure are given to us by God. All the time we have, all the talent we experience and all the treasure we have are gifts for us to use to help make the world a better place. This act of caring and sharing of time, talent and treasure is called Stewardship.

We are all called to be stewards and the best place to start is in our parish of St. Nicholas. Some examples of stewardship are volunteering to perform services in the church such as teaching, assisting as an usher, and planning and serving at church events. We have members who cleaned our rugs, repaired and cleaned altar cloths and altar boy robes. Some work in the kitchen, others bring food for coffee hour or make meshe for the liturgy. Still others are offering their expertise

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America's early settlers, past them and into the religious sense of the term, I suspect we think only of a handful of places to which such sanctified journeys occur. Jerusalem, Rome, Mt. Athos, Sinai, these names come to mind as appropriate sites for pilgrimage, proper paths on the way of devotion.

Continued on Page 7

to assist those who are having difficulty dealing with social services.

St. Nicholas is currently in the process of a Church Health Program that involves several members working together to meet with parishioners seeking ideas to make our parish stronger in its commitment to Christ. Our parish is filled with caring and concerned members who offer their time, their talent and their treasure to assist others.

What is your talent? Can you offer some of your time? Please bring your ideas to me or Father Nathan. Remember, everything you have is given to you by God. Take the time to give back.

KENDI SHQIP (The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Tetor, 2013

Këtë muaj po japim lutjen e Shën Simon Metafrastës dhe një pjesë të shkurtër nga vjersha "Varfëria" e Naimit

"Ti që me dëshirë me jep trupin tënd si ushqim, Ti që si zjarr zhduk atë që nuk është i vlefshëm,
Më kurse mua, O krijuesi im; Kalo në të gjitha pjesët e trupit,

Nëpër gjymtyrë, në mendimet dhe në zemrën time.
Digji gjëmbat e mëkateve të mija; M'a pastro shpirtin dhe më kthjello mendimet.

Ma forco trupin; Më ndriço shqisat.

Më bëj të të kem frikë; Gjithmonë më jep strehë, më mbro dhe

Më mbaj larg nga çdo veprim dhe çdo fjalë që ma shkatërron shpirtin,

Më bëj të zgjuar, më pastro dhe më kontrollo fjalët; Më duaj, më mëso, dhe më hap sytë,

Më trego si të bëhem tempull vetëm i shpirtit tënd dhe asnjëherë i mëkatit,

Le të largohet menjëherë nga shpirti im çdo veprim dhe pasion i lig

Duke të bërë ty pjesë të trupit tim dhe përmes kungimit tënd.

Si lidhje, unë sjell tek ty të gjithë Shenjtorët, engjëjt, dhe aposujt e mënçur,

Dhe përveç këtyre të sjell Nënen tënde të paster dhe të zgjuar.

Pranoji lutjet e tyre, Krishti im, pse ti je i dhëmshur,

Bëje shërbëtorin tënd të sjellë dritë:

Sepse vetëm Ti, Ati i mirë, je shenjtërimi dhe pastërtija e shpirtit tonë,

Dhe ty, O Zot i gjithfuqishëm, përditë të thurim lavde."

Varfëria

...Sa jemi shqiptarë,

Bes'është Perendija

Kemi gjithë një besë,

Per gjithë Shqipëtarët,

Jemi gjithë një farë,

Edhe vëllazëria,

Dhe rrojmë me një shpresë,

Urtësija, të mbarë t,

S'jemi kurrë të ndarë.

Fe është njerëzia.

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

A heartfelt thanks to all those that made our hosting of the Archdiocese Assembly such a success. A lot of effort went into the planning of all the weekend events. There were many compliments on the wonderful farewell breakfast hosted by the Daughters. The visiting clergy and delegates were very pleased.

Our annual Flea Market/Bake Sale will take place very soon; on Saturday & Sunday, November 9 & 10. I hope you've gotten inspired to begin the cleaning out process; doing a thorough check for any unwanted, unused items in clean, usable condition that you would like to donate for our sale. You may begin to bring in your items Sunday, October 27th. If you need help to bring your items to church, please contact me ASAP to make arrangements. Very soon we will begin to set up work schedules for shopping, baking, pricing & selling during the sale weekend. Lakror for sale will be made Thursday niter, November 7th. We welcome volunteers! Tina Peters will also be making a list of home baked goods donations. Please come and be an active part of it, and help us welcome back our many "regular" customers!

We will have a Daughters' meeting on Sunday, October 20th to firm up some plans. We are also "grossly overdue" to hold elections!!!!

Wisdom:

Being born was your gift.

Living life is your challenge.

Being the best you can be is your choice.

Sunday School & Albanian Class

Classes have Started

BRING YOUR CHILDREN!!!!



ST. NICHOLAS ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2014 BMW CAR RAFFLE

DONATION: ONLY \$50 EACH TICKET



No. 0001	Name _____	<p>St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church 2014 BMW Car Raffle Drawing: Sunday, December 8, 2013 St. Nicholas Day Dinner Jamaica Estates, New York 11432</p>  <p>1st Prize – BMW 328i Sedan 3 Year Lease or \$15,000 2nd Prize - \$1,000</p> <p>Donation: \$50 each Ticket A Limit of 1000 Tickets being Sold <i>Winner Need Not Be Present at Drawing</i></p>	No. 0001
	Address _____		
	Telephone _____		

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BUY YOUR TICKETS SOON!!!!

TO BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS CONTACT

TOMI BENO, JIM LIOLIN, LOU FOUNDOS, BILL PETERS

OR ANY PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

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, **Please Join Us!!!**. It will be held at the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course. This is an exceptional golf course with challenging holes and beautiful views.

Registration starts in late morning and Tee-Off is at 12 noon. We strike 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.

Support us in making this event a success!!! Help us when we reach 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 for a foursome or \$175 per person. We also want to encourage you to solicit sponsors for hole sponsorships for \$250, 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.

If you have any questions or want help, contact any one of the people listed below, or call 516-520-5227 and ask for Lou or Al Foundos.

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

Driving the Community---

Did you know that there are people who would like to attend Church but are having difficulty with transportation? Some of them may be your neighbors. In order to meet this need, we are hoping to begin a ride share program that will allow everyone who wishes to be in Church on Sunday to be there. As a first step, we are now looking for volunteers from the Ridgewood/Middle Village area of Queens and the Pelham Parkway/Riverdale areas of the Bronx who have room in their vehicles and are willing to help out. If this is you, please contact Jim Liolin to volunteer as a driver. 516-398 4311 or lionadv@aol.com.

Te ndihmojme me transport komunitetin tone---

A e dini se ka persona qe deshironje te marrin pjese ne kishen tone por kane veshtirsi transporti? Disa prej tyre mund te jene komshinjte tuaj. Me qellim qe te ndihmojme keta persona ne shpresojme te fillojme nje program qe te ndihmoje keta persona qe deshironje te vine ne kishen dite e Djele. Si fillim ne kerkojme vullnetare nga Ridgewood/Middle Village zona te Queens dhe Pelham Parkway/Riverdale zona te Bronx-it

Neqoftese deshironi vullnetarisht te ndimoni ju lutem kontaktoni : Jim Liolin ne kete numer telefoni 516 398 4211 ose lionadv@aol.com. Ju Falemderit

2014 Pledge Program – Begins In October

PLEDGE CARD

My total pledge for the year 2014 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: _____

Every year, St. Nicholas Church asks each Parishioner to make a financial Pledge for the next year in order to support the Church. The Pledges provide the money that enables the Church to serve the Community, to perform its day-to-day operations, and to be there when each of us needs the Church. The Pledge Program campaign runs from October into the Winter. It begins with letters and Pledge Cards going to Parishioners asking for an individual Pledge.

It is important to the life of the Church that everyone participates in the Annual Pledge Program. You will be getting your Pledge Letter soon! Please think about how important St. Nicholas Church is to you and your family. Then make as generous a Pledge as possible for 2014. Fill in the information about you and your family and mail the Card or bring it to Church.

ORTHODOX NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Now that Summer activities are behind us, we will be restarting our program of Orthodox Natural Church Development. Focus Groups of Parishioners are continuing. On Sunday, September 29th, we held our fourth Focus Group at the home of Jana and Phil Foundos. We continue to get many good ideas from these gatherings. And, the host hospitality is wonderful. After all the Focus Groups are completed, we will review them and put some of them into action to improve the health of our Church.

More Focus Groups are planned for the remainder of the year. They include gatherings in the Bronx, Ridgewood and St. Nicholas Church. In addition there will be a session for Young Adults (ages 20 to 35) as well as another for Teen & College Youth during the Christmas Break.

If interested in participating or you want more information, please feel free to speak with members of the Health Team: Fr. Nathan, Tomi Beno, Chris Liolin, Joanne Heiser, Mark Papalexis and Nick Filis.

Community News

by Linda Foundos

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to George Kelapire as he recovers from a recent surgery. We wish you all the best.
- Our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery to Tina Peters. Your smiling face is missed. Hope to have you back soon.
- Congratulations to Elizabeth Liolin who earned her Physician's Assistant Masters Degree from Mercy College. She has passed her national certification exam and has been hired by Montefiore Medical Center in their ER department. Elizabeth is thrilled with her new career after much hard work and dedication. We are all so proud of her, and wish her much success!
- Zana & Thomaq Fundo traveled to Chicago to visit her brother and his family. They thoroughly enjoyed their family bonding and the sights of Chicago. They look forward to returning.
- Silvana & Andrea Kutali and their family, including little Emma for the first time, spent several weeks in Albania visiting with family & friends. They had a wonderful time on the beach in Borsh.
- Lena & Fotaq Kondili with a group of family & friends went on an adventure to Alaska! It was a memorable adventure with amazing, breath-taking sights; a great experience in nature.
- Our sincere sympathy to the family of Vicky (Fitsames) Kiproff who fell asleep in the Lord on September 23rd. Vicky is originally from the New York community and relocated to the Philadelphia area after her marriage to Peter. They had 2 sons, Peter and Paul, and 4 grandchildren. She was an amazing woman in every respect who was loved and will be missed by many. May her memory be eternal.

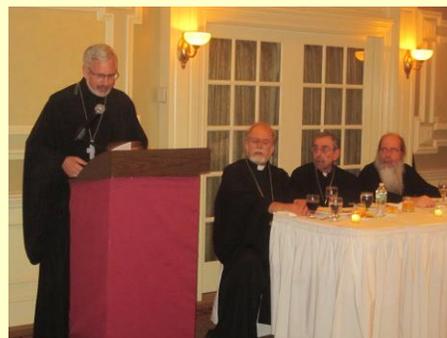
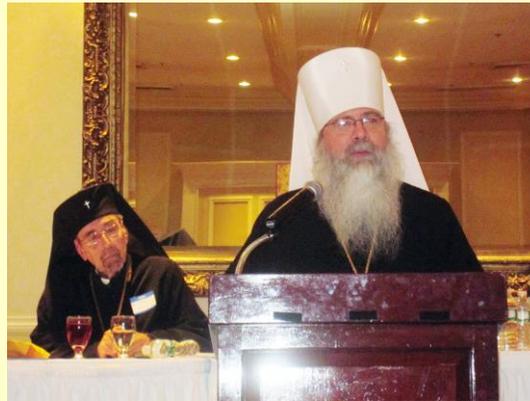
St. Nicholas Hosts Archdiocese Annual Assembly

From September 26th through September 28th, St. Nicholas hosted the 2013 Annual Albanian Orthodox Archdiocesan Assembly. Attending was Archbishop Nikon as well as Priests and Delegates from the other churches in the Albanian Archdiocese. Special guests from the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) included His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon of All America and Canada and Chancellor, the Very Rev. Dr. John Jillions. The Assembly, held at the Inn at New Hyde Park, is the annual business meeting of the Albanian Archdiocese. Subjects of value to the lives of the Parishes were covered and the gathering enabled new and re-newed friendships to flourish among representatives of the different churches.

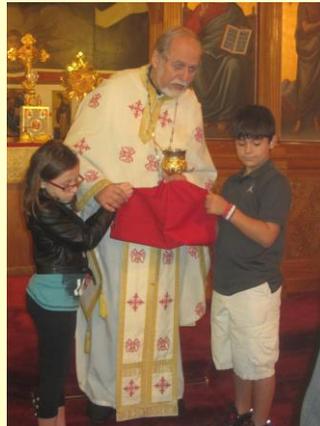
Parishioners of St. Nicholas participated in some of the meetings, the Luncheon and the Banquet Dinner on Friday. Many also attended the Saturday Liturgy at St. Nicholas which was celebrated by Archbishop Nikon and priests from other churches in the Archdiocese. All enjoyed the Breakfast that followed in the Fellowship Hall which was prepared by the Daughters' of St. Nicholas. All had an informative and wonderful time!

A sincere "Thank You" to the Daughters and all who worked on the Assembly making it a great success!!!

The Assembly Meeting and Banquet:



Liturgy and Reception:



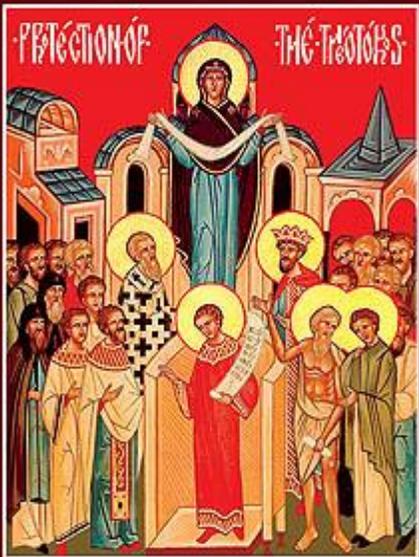
PASTOR'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

Yet history and the overwhelming practice of generations of faithful would disagree with such exclusivity, and I am happy to concur. Large and small, near and far, pilgrimage is not just for the select few but for all and everywhere. Historically, there have been countless spots for us Christians to go and pray, to go and seek to quiet ourselves enough to hear God. It is natural that we need sometimes some time to get away to stand in an unaccustomed place and reassess. I would advocate that this is not only natural but vital.

With a sad easiness many of us trudge through our days, thinking of bills and house cleaning, fretting about automobile fixes and interpersonal strife. This is what it is to exist—to know and deal with our problems, but is this really what it is to live? We know as Christians that we have not been promised an easy life, not simple success or cheap happiness, but neither have we been told that our time is to be a grinding, weary thing. The Christian life that is ours is a temperate one, moderating sorrow with joy, suffering with elation, honest toil with thankful peace. Very often we see our faith as another load of obligations, sometimes as that last straw too many, yet the need to stop and breathe and find room to rejoice is a command from the top and one that we disregard at our own peril.

When you come to Church, remember that you, too, are on a journey. Each Sunday is offered to us as a pilgrimage and respite. True, often it is a hard trip; there are distractions and obligations, tasks in which you will likely be asked to take part. However, at the heart of it all is that unchanging and deep, deep peace. In that silence that is more than hush or quiet, we find God awaiting us, welcoming us, asking us to return and rejoice. This is the path of the pilgrim. I'll see you in a few weeks.

During October, should you or any member of our community have an emergency or urgent request for the Church, please leave a message on the Church phone (718-380-5684). These will be monitored regularly. Alternatively, please contact the Chairman of our Parish Council, Jim Liolin, at 516-398-4311 or lionadv@aol.com.

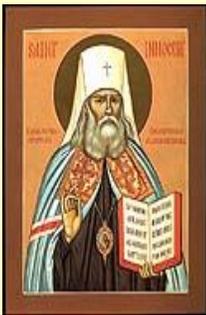


Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary – Commemorated on October 1st Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA website

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos: “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 a 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, 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.” At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting St Andrew in contemplation of her. Churches in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God began to appear in Russia in the twelfth century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Protection at Nerl, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrew. The efforts of this holy prince also established in the Russian Church the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, about the year 1164. At Novgorod in the twelfth century there was a monastery of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (the so-called Zverin monastery) In Moscow also under Tsar Ivan the Terrible the cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God was built at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of St Basil the Blessed). On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, “Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you.”

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER



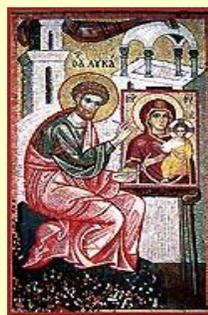
St. Innocent
of Alaska
Oct 06



Glorification of
St. Tikhon to America
Oct 09



Martyr Longinus
the Centurion
Oct 16



Apostle Luke
the Evangelist
Oct 18



St. James, the
Brother of the Lord
Oct 23



St. Demetrius
Oct 26

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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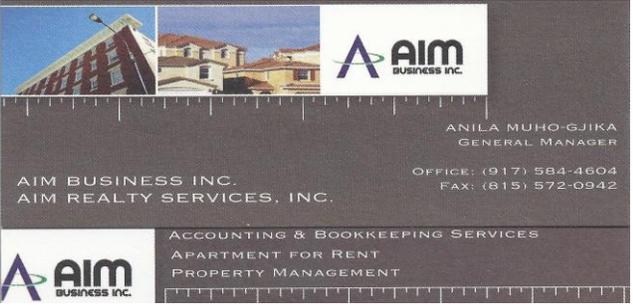
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Major Church Activities and Events

- Tues, Oct 01:** Paracletis, 6:00 p.m.; Protection of The Mother of God
- Wed, Oct 02:** Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat, Oct 05:** Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
- Sun, Oct 06:** Liturgy, 10:00; Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
- Mon, Oct 07:** Church Golf Outing, 11:00 a.m.
- Sun, Oct 13:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Oct 20:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Oct 27:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sat, Nov 02:** Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
- Sun, Nov 03:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
General Meeting to follow in the Fellowship Hall
- Sat, Nov 09 – Sun, Nov 10:** Flea Market / Bake Sale

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

- Oct 06:** Stefan BALTADORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
- Oct 13:** Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE
- Oct 20:** Petrika TROJA / Tomi BENO
- Oct 27:** Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
- Nov 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
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432

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