

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

Summer has arrived at St. Nicholas Church. In the natural world around us, we observe all those changes that mark the cycle of the seasons. Tides, migrations, and the lengthening of days make known to us the slow and steady progress of time. In Church, we note a similar seasonal phenomenon: the annual summer lessening. Yes, the parish is emptier while the sun shines brightly warming fields of many kinds, fields of grain and produce as well as fields of sport and contest. And the cry sometimes does erupt: where are the people? And the cry sometimes does erupt and rises in voices carried to me, your priest, such that I am asked at times to take up and try to wield thorned guilt or plead people back into the pews back in from the sunshine. I usually try to resist as delicately as I can, and when I can't, I think I just confuse people in admonishing those in Church on the importance of coming to Church, very often actually living into the cliché of preaching to the choir. Besides, guilt is a bad starting point for any important decision, and pleading so rarely persuades.

Why be at Church? There are, in fact, many bad reasons to go to Church. I recall the nearly electric feeling that passed through the congregation the first time I stated this

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

The June picnic is a long tradition of St. Nicholas here in New York. Unfortunately, threatening weather conditions kept some away, but there were hearty souls that braved the warnings and elements. We will continue the tradition in June of 2016.

During the next few months various church groups will be working and preparing for the busy fall ahead.

The Sunday School steering committee will meet with Father to fine tune an effective program for our children. Please make the effort to give your children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces and nephews the opportunity to learn their faith.

The financial and investment committees will look at the progress for the year and prepare for the budget of 2016.

The Golf group will be teeing off promotional efforts to get the people and sponsors in line for another successful and much needed fundraising project.

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publicly. It was as though the air were charged with dispute, but it is true. There are, perhaps, more bad reasons than good ones—routine, the false promise of respectability, our old friend guilt, the expectations of others, social convention, and many more that I have probably forgotten. Fortunately we serve a God Who is accustomed to switching things around, to making water from wine and permitting holiness to grow even in the most unlikely of places and from sometimes the most unlikely of less than good choices. God blesses those who come to Him despite their paths. Yet there is one

Continued on Page 4

Archdiocese:

The Diocese Assembly will be held this September in Worcester Ma. We are looking for delegates to attend. In addition that weekend St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church will celebrate their 100th Anniversary. If interested in being a delegate see Fr. Nathan or me about the particulars.

The Theological Fund has underwritten programs for individual missionaries in OCMC and as well as continuing education of our clergy. Fr. Nathan Preston and Fr. Dennis Rhodes will be journeying to Albania this summer with financial assistance from the Fund.

For the FALL:

The Daughters of St. Nicholas will sponsor their Flea Market. More info to follow.

Our annual Pledge Program will begin in late fall requesting your support for 2016.

Busy timesenjoy your summer and be safe. See you in Church.

KENDI SHQIP (The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Korrik–Gusht, 2015

Këtë muaj po japim disa fjalë të urta nga libri i Salomonit, birit të Davidit, mbret i Izraelit.

Qëllimi i fjalëve të urta

I urti do të dëgjojë dhe do të rritë diturinë e tij; njeriu i zgjuar do të përvetesoje këshilla të urta për të kuptuar një fjali dhe një enigmë, fjalët e të urtëve dhe thëniet e tyre. Frika e Zotit është fillimi i njohjes, por njerzit e pamënd përçmojnë diturinë dhe arsimin.

Nxitje që u drejtohen të rinjve:

Bindju prindërve

Dëgjo, o biri im mësimet e atit tënd dhe mos i lër pas dore mësimet e nënës sate, sepse janë një nur që zbukuron kokën tënde dhe një stoli në qafën tënde.

Shmangu nga shoqëria e keqe

Biri im, në qoftë se mëkatarët duan të të mashtrojnë, mos prano; në qoftë se thonë: “Eja me ne, kemi ngritur një pritë për të derdhur gjak; i ngritëm gracka të pafajmit pa ndonjë shkak, le t’i kapërdimë të gjallë ashtu si Sheoli, tërësisht si ata që zbresin në gropë; ne do gjejmë lloj–lloj pasurish të çmueshme; do t’i mbushim shtëpitë tona me plaçka; ti do t’a hedhësh në short pjesën tënde me ne, dhe të gjithë ne do të kemi një qese të vetme”, biri im, mos shko me ta në po atë rrugë, ndale hapin nga shtegu i tyre, sepse këmbët e tyre turren drejt së keqes dhe ata nxitojnë të derdhin gjak. Shtrihet më kot rrjeta përpara çdo lloj zogu, këta kurdisin prita kundër gjakut të vet dhe ngrenë kurthe kundër vetë jetës së tyre. Të tilla janë rrugët e çdo njeriu të etur për pasuri; ajo ia heq jetën atyre që e kanë.

Ruaje zemrën tënde

Ruaje zemrën tënde me shumë kujdes, sepse nga ajo dalin burimet e jetës. Hiq dorë nga e folura me hile dhe largo prej teje buzët e çoroditura. Sytë e tu le të shohin drejt dhe qepallat e tua të synojnë para. Sheshoje shtegun e këmbëve të tua, dhe të gjitha rrugët e tua qofshin të caktuara mirë. Mos u shmang as në të djathtë, as në të majtë; largu nga e keqja.

Gjëra të neveritshme për Zotin

Zoti i urren këto gjashtë gjëra, madje shtatë janë të neveritshme për të; sytë tinzarë, gjuhë gënjeshtarë, duar që derdhin gjak të pafajshëm, zemra që kurdisin plane të këqija, këmbë që turren shpejt drejt së keqes, dëshmitarët e rremë që thonë gënjeshtër dhe ata që shtien grindje midis vëllezërve.

DAUGHTERS’ CORNER

By Linda Foundos

We hope you are all enjoying these summer months with all the activities that come with it. It’s a time to spend a little more time in the outdoors, be a little more active, a more relaxed cooking, spending more time with the children, cool off at the beach, etc. Each season has something “special” about it.

Please talk with your friends and try to come up with some ideas and activities you would like to have beginning this fall. We welcome you to come and join us regularly. If you would like to participate in our coffee hosting rotation, please contact Christina Liolin.

I recently heard these two comments which resonated with me, so I thought I would share them with you.

- The measure of a man is how he lives & how he treats others.
- Live your life with meaning.

What is a Paraclesis Service?

by Fr. Nathan

The Paraclesis service is a series of hymns and prayers chanted either in times of especial need or during certain season of the Church year. Traditionally, during the first two weeks of August as we fast in preparation of celebrating the Dormition of the Theotokos, these short services are offered almost every day. In them we praise the Mother of God while also remembering the needs of those in our community. As we gather each year for Memorial Saturday prayers, recalling all of those who have gone before us, these Paraclesis services offer us a similar opportunity for remembrance, but here our petitions are for those still living. Take a look at the calendar for August and see when you can come to participate in these special prayers, and, when you do, be sure to bring a list of names for Father to remember them.

Sacrifice is at the heart of every religion—this idea that faithful people have an obligation to give. As Christians, we don’t always think much about this, but we should for we have sacrifice as an essential part of our unique calling, our unique relationship with God. We do not give with the hope of getting back, making offerings from our time and our resources with the expectation that we will be rewarded. No, we give because in turning over something that we think of as our own we begin to understand that everything that passes through our hands, every blessing and wealth, is not ours: we are but custodians of God’s gifts. We need to give because we need to acknowledge that God is our rich benefactor, king, and Father, and we are His servants, His children. When we peel away a little bit of what He has bestowed on us and offer this in obedience to His Church, we come to recall ourselves as His own. So giving, too, is an act of prayer, a way to live our lives oriented toward our Creator.

Come and Meet Missionaries Working in Albania



Please plan to be present on Sunday, July 19, as we welcome the Macdonald Family, who have been serving as missionaries in Albania for the last three years.

Dr. Macdonald teaches at S. Vlash Seminary, where he trains the next generation of Church leaders and priests for the Church of Albania.

As a family, the Macdonalds have travelled throughout Albania working with the Church in youth camps and retreats, offering their support and the gift of their time and zeal in the ongoing resurrection of the faith there.

Baptism an Important part of our Lives

St. Nicholas Church is very proud to introduce the two newest members of our holy faith, Thomas Rehova and Dion Nune, both of whom were baptized shortly after Pascha.

We welcome them into our community and this life we share with Christ and with each other. Through baptism, they have entered into a high calling, becoming servants of God and learning to serve His world. Through baptism, they have begun to know that special place in all of creation that their Creator has chosen for them, here with us.

Though they are small and though they have much still to learn about living the Christian life, they are in the right place. Our job is to see that they grow here, mature here, and discover here with us what life with God means. Please keep them and their families and their godparents in your prayers; help them in this journey of growth towards God.

Thomas Rehova

Parents:
Albert & Hanneleida Rehova

Godfather:
George Vangjel



Dion Nune

Parents:
Erald Nune & Keti Qipo

Godfather:
Gjergji Qipo



PICNIC

St. Nicholas Annual Fathers' Day Picnic

A Fun Day for All!!!!

Sunday, June 21, Fathers' Day, turned out to be a nice day for a Picnic, despite heavy rains the night before and threats of rain on Sunday morning. Parishioners gathered to honor fathers and grandfathers....enjoying sunny skies, sizzling grills, music in the air, plenty of action, laughter and lots of conversation. The crowd was smaller than normal due to the rain scare, but those who attended had a good time.

A special "Thank You" goes to all who attended and to those who worked so hard to make this Picnic a fun event and a social success!!!

ENJOY THE PHOTOS!!!



PICNIC

PHOTOS CONTINUED



COMMUNITY NEWS – By Linda Foundos

- Andi Mitre graduated with Cum Laude honors in Computer Science and Mathematics from Rutgers University in New Jersey. During his 4 years of study, he worked two part-time jobs which created a great path for career opportunities. Last year he was offered an internship at NBC in Los Angeles; this year NBC in Manhattan offered him a full-time job in computer programming and marketing where he is actively working. His family is so proud of him for his hard work and dedication. He has become quite an accomplished young man and built a solid foundation for a very bright future. We wish him much success and happiness.
- Our deepest sympathy to Rosalie Zacharias, on the falling asleep in the Lord of her sister, Louise Rockmore, after her bravely fought battle with cancer. Louise & Rosalie have always been as one; Louise's family has always been as Rosalie's own. For many years now, Louise has been a part of our community both as Rosalie's much loved sister and as a name remembered regularly in our prayers, as an individual raised up to God by our voices. May her memory be eternal.
- Elza Vangjel, mother of Kristaq Vangjel, Leonora Voxhilla & Kostanza Rehova, fell asleep in the Lord on May 31st. She was loved by many & will be greatly missed. Our condolences to the family. May you always cherish your wonderful memories of her. I perjetshim kujtimi!

Coffee List

July	05	Open
	12	Tina Peters / Rosalie Zacharias
	19	Adelina Llupa
	26	Fjona Fundo / Suzana Fundo
August	02	Linda Foundos / Elizabeth Liolin
	09	Open
	16	Diana Beno / Beti Tsamblakos
	23	Agathia Luka / Antoneta Mertiri
	30	Open

Dear Ladies,

Here is the schedule for coffee for the next 2 months. If your name is listed, please be sure to put it on your calendar. If you need to change the date, please advise Christina Liolin or Adelina Llupa.

It is very important to remember that on the day you are scheduled for coffee, **please arrive at church by 10 a.m.** so that preparations can be made.

What to bring:

1. Cake for 50-60 people
2. Cookies for the children
3. 1 gallon of milk



PASTOR'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

particularly bad reason to go to Church; it is one that remains, in a sense, unblessed. We cannot come because we think we are needed.

God does not need us, that is the horrible secret all pastors are burdened to know. We serve a God Who does not need us but wants us, and there is a world of difference in these two things. On the parish level, we do have needs and do not pretend otherwise. We need the regular and often tiresome commitments of time and treasure, i.e., the less than glamorous need for money and work. We need people to ensure that these are here. And we need singers and servers and teachers and bakers of meshe and all the administrative tasks that it takes to run a very real institution in a very real world. We need these, but God was doing just fine without us. So He will continue to be just fine.

Why come to Church? We come because we are not needed and because the worship of God, which is the goal and calling of all creation, will and can continue even without us. If we do not praise, the saints will, and if not the saints, the angels, and if even the angels are lacking, the very stones will raise their voices to hymn the Creator, so the scriptures say. We come to Church simply because we don't want to be left behind.

The seasons change, and this summer will pass. I have learned by now that things get a bit more crowded in September, at Christmas, and at Pascha of course. The pews fill and empty, but that hint and taste of still eternity remains. Why be deprived of it?

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE - Commemorated on July 22nd



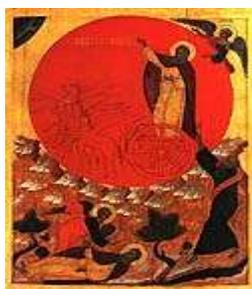
On the banks of Lake Genesareth (Galilee), between the cities of Capharnum and Tiberias, was the small city of Magdala; a woman whose name has entered forever into the Gospel account was born and grew up in Magdala. The Gospel tells us nothing of Mary's younger years, but Tradition informs us that Mary of Magdala was young and pretty, and led a sinful life. It says in the Gospels that the Lord expelled seven devils from Mary. From the moment of her healing Mary led a new life, and became a true disciple of the Savior. The Gospel relates that Mary followed after the Lord, when He went with the Apostles through the cities and villages of Judea and Galilee preaching about the Kingdom of God. She served Him from her own possessions and undoubtedly shared with the Apostles the evangelic tasks in common with the other women. The Evangelist Luke, evidently, has her in view together with the other women, stating that at the moment of the Procession of Christ onto Golgotha, when after, the Scourging He took on Himself the heavy Cross, collapsing under its weight, the women followed after Him weeping and wailing, but He consoled them. The Gospel relates that Mary Magdalene was present on Golgotha at the moment of the Lord's Crucifixion. While all the disciples of

the Savior ran away, she remained fearlessly at the Cross together with the Mother of God and the Apostle John. The Evangelists also list among those standing at the Cross the mother of the Apostle James, and Salome, and other women followers of the Lord from Galilee, but all mention Mary Magdalene first. St John, in addition to the Mother of God, names only her and Mary Cleopas. This indicates how much she stood out from all the women who gathered around the Lord. She was faithful to Him not only in the days of His Glory, but also at the moment of His extreme humiliation and insult. As the Evangelist Matthew relates, she was present at the Burial of the Lord. Before her eyes Joseph and Nicodemus went out to the tomb with His lifeless Body. She watched as they covered over the entrance to the cave with a large stone, entombing the Source of Life. Faithful to the Law in which she was raised, Mary together with the other women spent following day at rest, because it was the great day of the Sabbath, coinciding with the Feast of Passover. But all the rest of the peaceful day the women gathered spices to go to the Grave of the Lord at dawn on Sunday and anoint His Body according to the custom of the Jews. It is necessary to mention that, having agreed to go on the first day of the week to the Tomb early in the morning, the holy women had no possibility of meeting with one another on Saturday. They went separately on Friday evening to their own homes. They went out only at dawn the following day to go to the Sepulchre, not all together, but each from her own house. The Evangelist Matthew writes that the women came to the grave at dawn, or as the Evangelist Mark expresses, extremely early before the rising of the sun. The Evangelist John, elaborating upon these, says that Mary came to the grave so early that it was still dark. Obviously, she waited impatiently for the end of night, but it was not yet daybreak. She ran to the place where the Lord's Body lay. Mary went to the tomb alone. Seeing the stone pushed away from the cave, she ran away in fear to tell the close Apostles of Christ, Peter and John. Hearing the strange message that the Lord was gone from the tomb, both Apostles ran to the tomb and, seeing the shroud and winding cloths, they were amazed. The Apostles went and said nothing to anyone, but Mary stood about the entrance to the tomb and wept. Here in this dark tomb so recently lay her lifeless Lord.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN JULY



Saint Marina
July 17



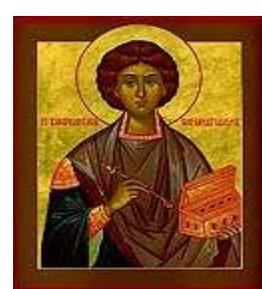
Prophet Elijah
July 20



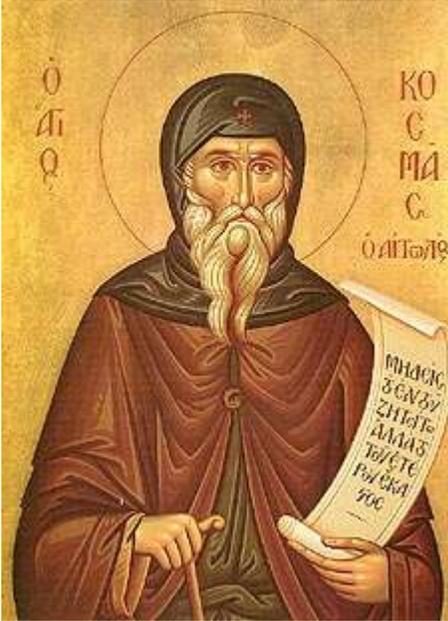
Saint Christina
July 24



Saint Parasceva
July 26



Saint Panteleimon
July 27



SAINT COSMAS AITOLOS - Commemorated on August 24th

(Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

The New Hieromartyr Cosmas, Equal of the Apostles, in the world Conostas, was a native of Aitolia. He studied at first under the guidance of the archdeacon Ananias Dervisanos, and afterwards continued his education on Mount Athos, at the Vatopedi school renowned for teachers such as Nicholas Tzartzoulios (from Metsovo) and Eugenius Voulgaris (afterwards in the years 1775-1779 the archbishop of Ekaterinoslav and the Chersonessus).

Remaining on Athos at the Philotheou monastery to devote himself to spiritual labors, he was tonsured a monk with the name Cosmas, and later was ordained hieromonk. The desire to benefit his fellow Christians, to guide them upon the way of salvation and strengthen their faith, impelled St Cosmas to seek the blessing of his spiritual fathers and go to Constantinople. There he mastered the art of rhetoric and, having received a written permit of Patriarch Seraphim II (and later from his successor Sophronius) to preach the Holy Gospel.

So the saint began to proclaim the Gospel at first in the churches of Constantinople and the surrounding villages, then in the Danube regions, in Thessalonica, in Verroia, in Macedonia, Chimaera, Akarnania, Aitolia, on the islands of Saint Maura, Kephalaria and other places. His preaching, filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit, was simple, calm, and gentle. It brought Christians great spiritual benefit. The Lord Himself assisted him and confirmed his words with signs and miracles, just as He had confirmed the preaching of the Apostles.

Preaching in the remote areas of Albania, where Christian piety had almost disappeared among the rough and coarse people entrenched in sin, St Cosmas led them to sincere repentance and improvement with the Word of God. Under his guidance, church schools were opened in the towns and villages. The rich offered their money for the betterment of the churches, for the purchase of Holy Books (which the saint distributed to the literate), veils (which he gave women, admonishing them to come to church with covered heads), for prayer ropes and crosses (which he distributed to the common folk), and for baptismal fonts so that children could be baptized in the proper manner.

Since the churches could not accommodate everyone wanting to hear the wise preacher, St Cosmas with forty or fifty priests served the Vigil in the fields, and in city squares, where thousands of people prayed for the living and for the dead, and were edified by his preaching. Everywhere that St Cosmas halted and preached, the grateful listeners set up a large wooden cross, which remained thereafter in memory of this.

The apostolic service of St Cosmas was brought to a close by his martyric death in the year 1779. At 65 years of age, he was seized by the Turks and strangled. His body was thrown into a river, and after three days, was found by the priest Mark and buried near the village of Kolikontasi at the monastery of the Entrance into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos. Afterwards, part of his relics were transferred to various places as a blessing. He was glorified by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 1961

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN AUGUST



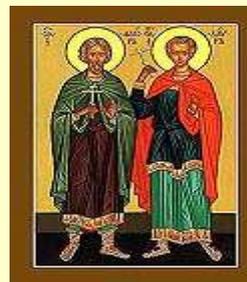
Procession of
The Cross
Aug 01



Transfiguration
of The Lord
Aug 06



The Dormition
of The Theotokos
Aug 15



Martyrs Florus
and Laurus
Aug 18



Beheading of
John the Baptist
Aug 29

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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!!!

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LION ASSOCIATES

Phone: (914) 670-0128
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.
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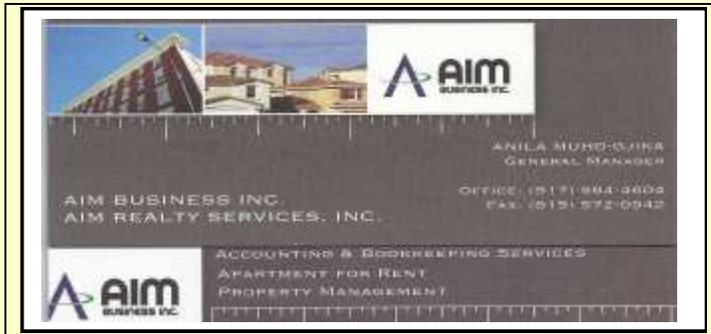
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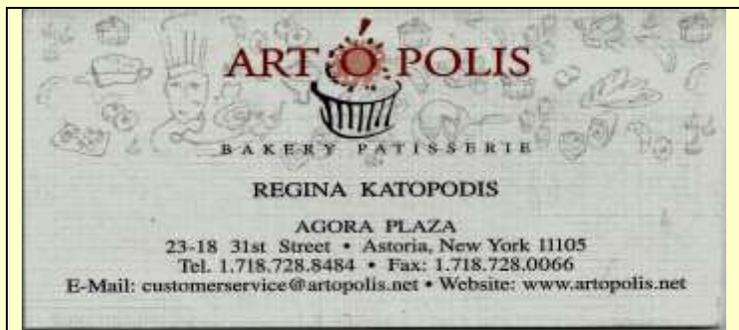
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Fax: 1-718-721-2553

BENO GROUP, LLC
Real Estate Investments

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Fax: (516) 320- 8023

Litras Funeral Home
Bernard F. Dowd and Tracy B. Dowd

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Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers every Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m.

July 04, 11, 18, (not 25); August 01, 08, 15 (not 22 and 29)

Sun, July 05: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Sun, July 12: Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Sun, July 19: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Sun, July 26: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Sat, Aug 01: Prayers, 11:00 a.m.; Procession of The Cross
 Sun, Aug 02: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Mon. Aug 03: Paraklesis, 7:00 p.m.
 Wed, Aug 05: Vesperal Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.; Transfiguration
 Thurs, Aug 06: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; Transfiguration
 Fri, Aug 07: Paraklesis, 11:00 a.m.
 Sun, Aug 09: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Mon, Aug 10: Parakelesis, 7:00 p.m.
 Wed, Aug 12: Paraklesis, 11:00 a.m.
 Fri, Aug 14: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.; Dormition
 Sat, Aug 15: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Dormition
 Sun, Aug 16: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Sun, Aug 23: Liturgy, 12:00 a.m.
 Sun, Aug 30: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

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

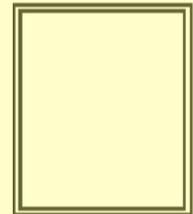
July 05: Stefan BALTAFDORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
 July 12: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE
 July 19: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO
 July 26: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
 Aug 02: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS
 Aug 09: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA
 Aug 16: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS
 Aug 23: Stefan BALTADORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
 Aug 30: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
 181-14 Midland Parkway
 Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



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