

THE ORTHODOX POST

June 2016

Volume XII, Issue 6



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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Thank you. You're welcome.

Thank you. No problem.

Over the past couple decades, you may, like me, have noticed this shift in social niceties. While thank you remains stable, thanks likely to our parents' insistence and teachers' mandate, its response is properly tricky. When was the last time you said you're welcome? No problem, don't worry about, it's nothing, or that ever informal and monosyllabic sure, these have become the easy replacements for rebounding thanks in our popular lexicon. Though I am often a stickler for grammar, I'm not one of those who insist that English must always remain fixed in its conventions; our language must change as we do and our world. But I was amused some weeks ago after I was told that I sounded perfectly like an Albanian trying to sound American, having answered someone's thanks with *s'ka problem*. I, in fact, needed to return to the dictionary and look up again how to say you're welcome, something I had forgotten (or more likely never really learned) entirely.

I suspect that this change in our words belies a certain but unspecified unease. Saying you're welcome seems to imply a superiority that most of us find uncomfortable. It puts us in the advantaged place—the bestower—in a society wherein we hope that all can come to be equal. It seems prideful and may

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

The Pledge program encouraged the growth of our parish to over 100 participating households. Not only does it provide the financial means for the church to operate but it shows the status of the membership. We should not consider this as the only responsible way to be members of St. Nicholas. Membership means more and requires us to participate in the Liturgies, share our talents to help the Church in its mission of spiritual growth.

This was a glorious Pascha season with many services attended by parishioners and visitors. Pascha evening realized 200 –300 hundred individuals who exclaimed "Christ Is Risen". It was a wonderful site. It is always a good

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be to be that one who acknowledges that things are unfair, that in this moment I am uniquely able to offer and to give. This is the good side, the bad is that we pretend that offering and providing don't mean much. They don't cost us. And there is pride here too, that our largess is so ample and the other's needs so minute. The cost of bigging ourselves is paid in the belittling of others wants, desires, and true needs. Or we pretend that we don't have and let our words reflect this, faking that what we hold isn't really ours just a pool into which we dip our hands and dispense, blinded to disparity that is true. Any way you put it, giving does cost us, and it costs the given their thanks which makes us uncomfortable.

Continued on Page 4

time when we are able to enjoy the gifts of life together.

We are a large community considerably more than 100 households. We need each pledging member to inspire others to learn about our faith. It is our calling...

Finally, the Council welcomes Zhani Joanidhi as the newest council member of St. Nicholas. The following are the Council and officers for 2016 : Jim Liolin President, Mark Papalexis Vice president, John Jance Secretary, Lou Foundos Treasurer, Bill Peters Comptroller, Ilia Luka. Damian Peters, Izzy Tsamblakos,

Don't forget the Church picnic on Sunday June 19th, Fathers Day, at Manorhaven Park, Port Washington, NY.

See you in church!

Coffee List

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**



May	29	Tina Peters / Rosalie Zacharias
June	05	Open
	12	Fjona Fundo / Suzana Fundo
	19	Fathers' Day Picnic
	26	Oneda Sera / Liri Panajoti

DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST, COFFEE WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH UNLESS THERE IS A MEMORIAL OR OTHER SPECIAL REQUEST.

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

It was wonderful to have His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon and several guest clergy with us on Sunday, May 22nd for liturgy and a lovely luncheon. A heartfelt thank you to those that worked to prepare this event for us. We appreciate your effort.

Congratulations to all those graduating at this time. Please share the news with us so we can rejoice along with you. We are very proud of our youth and their accomplishments. We wish them all the best as they move on to a new chapter in their lives.

We wish all the fathers a very **Happy Fathers' Day!!** You are a huge part of our lives. We appreciate all that you do; the love, comfort, guidance, education, support, etc. that you bring to our lives. We hope you will join us for our annual St. Nicholas Fathers' Day picnic.

To those of you that have been unable to attend services, we send our regards. We just want you to know that you are missed! We certainly haven't forgotten you! We wish you all well.

A Tibetan Proverb:

The secret to living well and longer is:
Eat half, walk double, laugh triple, & love without measure.

2016 Parish Council

On Sunday, April 3rd, Parishioners gathered at the Parish Semi-Annual Meeting to address the business of the Parish. Some new members were elected to the Council to fill vacancies. The 2016 Parish Council is as follows:

Jim Liolin	President
Mark Papalexis	Vice President
Lou Foundos	Treasurer
Bill Peters	Comptroller
John Jance	Secretary



Directors: Zhani Joanidhi, Ilia Luka, Damian Peters and Izzy Tsamblakos.

Pastor: Fr. Nathan Preston

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church

PICNIC

Sunday, June 19th – 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 9:00 a.m.**



Fun Fellowship Food

Please clean-up your area before you leave the Park

Mothers' Day Celebration

On Sunday, May 8th, Parishioners attended services honoring the ladies for Mothers' Day!!! Afterwards, the ladies were given flowers and served a deluxe breakfast by the men in the Fellowship Hall.



Archbishop Nikon Visit

On Sunday, May 22nd, Parishioners welcomed Archbishop Nikon to St. Nicholas Church.

His Eminence, with Fr. Nathan and several visiting Clergy, celebrated Liturgy and commemorated the Feast Day of Sts. Constantine and Helen.

At the end of the service, Archbishop Nikon administered the oath of office to the members of the 2016 Parish Council.

Afterwards, Parishioners participated in a brunch held in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone had the opportunity to informally meet with Archbishop Nikon.

A special thanks to Mark Papalexis and the Daughters' of St. Nicholas for creating a wonderful Brunch that was enjoyed by all!!!



Fr. Nathan's Message – continued from Page 1

One of our goals as members of the St. Nicholas community, and if you are reading this you are part of that community—like it or not, there are no spectators—one of our goals is to be and become better and persist in being a welcoming community. A welcoming community is one in which strangers cannot be found, only family, friends, and guests, all relishing the hospitality of our people, our faith, and our God. But to work at being this welcoming community, we will need to overcome some of our fears, and one of these is to own that problem of saying you're welcome and meaning it.

The resources, the life, the peace we find in faith, these are ours, all of us. We cannot afford to pretend that they do not exist or are in the possession of Father, the parish council, or some abstract pretended—at better, richer other. They are ours. And because they are ours, we must give. That little snip of hair taken from the head of every child and adult baptized into the faith, that tonsure is contractual. It is our promise to God that He now has us as we now have Him, and He gives so that we can do likewise. We have something special and denying this or refusing to claim it as our own invalidates this not at all. We have peace and love and acceptance to offer to a world that needs these things and needs them badly. It is uncomfortable to be privileged; it is a lie to claim that we are otherwise.

This summer, let's try to do better. Offer St. Nicholas to someone else. Offer yourself to someone else when they arrive at the threshold of our Church, make them comfortable in the home you have. Your words don't matter so much: you're welcome, no problem. Your actions, the way in which you inhabit the blessing of this place, this space of mercy and the compassion of God, these matter. Own them. Give them. Live in them.

Pascha Season Highlights

Pan Orthodox Lenten Services

Parishioners from several Orthodox Churches in the area gathered at St. Nicholas Church to celebrate Pan Orthodox Vespers on Sunday evening, April 10th. Afterwards they shared a Lenten meal together.



Palm Sunday Services

Parishioners gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday Services. This included a procession in which the children marched with palms signifying Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. Afterwards all enjoyed our Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Daughters' of St. Nicholas.



Pascha Season Highlights

Palm Sunday Services – continued



Decorating the Epitaphi

On Good Friday morning, The Daughters of St. Nicholas decorated the Epitaphi. They did a beautiful job!!!



Pascha Season Highlights

Good Friday

Parishioners gathered for services commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. Singers chanted in front of the Epitaphi, everyone participated in the procession around the Church and at the end of the service Parishioners received flowers from the Epitaphi.



Pascha Season Highlights

Pascha's Ressurrection Services

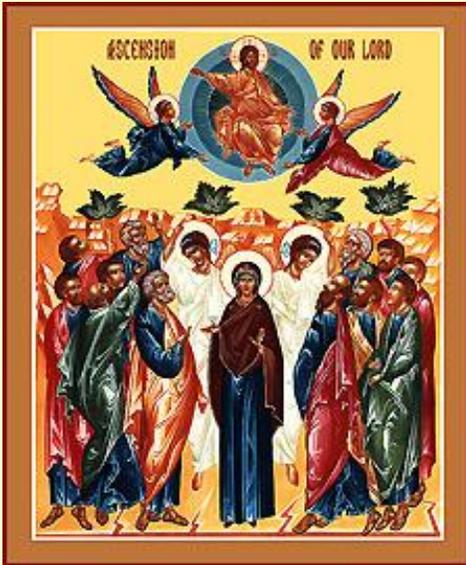
An overflow crowd assembled on Saturday midnight to celebrate Pascha Services and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead. Afterwards Parishioners received and cracked Easter Eggs. Some Parishioners brought food which was blessed by Father Nathan. They broke the fast with friends by dining in the Fellowship Hall.



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD - Commemorated on June 9th

(Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

“AND ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN....” by V. Rev. George Florovsky, D.D.



“I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God, and Your God” (John 20:17). In these words the Risen Christ described to Mary Magdalene the mystery of His Resurrection. She had to carry this mysterious message to His disciples, “as they mourned and wept”. The disciples listened to these glad tidings with fear and amazement, with doubt and mistrust. It was not Thomas alone who doubted among the Eleven. On the contrary, it appears that only one of the Eleven did not doubt—St John, the disciple “whom Jesus loved.” He alone grasped the mystery of the empty tomb at once: “and he saw, and believed”. Even Peter left the sepulcher in amazement, “wondering at that which was come to pass”. The disciples did not expect the Resurrection. The women did not, either. They were quite certain that Jesus was dead and rested in the grave, and they went to the place “where He was laid,” with the spices they had prepared, “that they might come and anoint Him.” They had but one thought: “Who shall roll away the stone from the door

of the sepulcher for us?”. And therefore, on not finding the body, Mary Magdalene was sorrowful and complained: “They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him” . On hearing the good news from the angel, the women fled from the sepulchre in fear and trembling: “Neither said they anything to any man, for they were afraid”. And when they spoke no one believed them, in the same way as no one had believed Mary, who saw the Lord, or the disciples as they walked on their way into the country, and who recognized Him in the breaking of bread. “And afterward He appeared unto the Eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them who had seen Him after He was risen”.

From whence comes this “hardness of heart” and hesitation? Why were their eyes so “holden,” why were the disciples so much afraid of the news, and why did the Easter joy so slowly, and with such difficulty, enter the Apostles’ hearts? Did not they, who were with Him from the beginning, “from the baptism of John,” see all the signs of power which He performed before the face of the whole people? The lame walked, the blind saw, the dead were raised, and all infirmities were healed. Did they not behold, only a week earlier, how He raised by His word Lazarus from the dead, who had already been in the grave for four days? Why then was it so strange to them that the Master had arisen Himself? How was it that they came to forget that which the Lord used to tell them on many occasions, that after suffering and death He would arise on the third day? The mystery of the Apostles’ “unbelief” is partly disclosed in the narrative of the Gospel: “But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel,” with disillusionment and complaint said the two disciples to their mysterious Companion on the way to Emmaus. They meant: He was betrayed, condemned to death and crucified. The news of the Resurrection brought by the women only “astonished” them. They still wait for an earthly triumph, for an external victory. The same temptation possesses their hearts, which first prevented them from accepting “the preaching of the Cross” and made them argue every time the Saviour tried to reveal His mystery to them. “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”. It was still difficult to understand this.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN JUNE



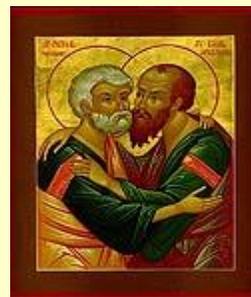
St. Jerome of Stridonium
June 15



Pentecost
June 19



Synaxis of All Saints
June 26



Sts. Peter and Paul
June 29



Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles
June 30

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.

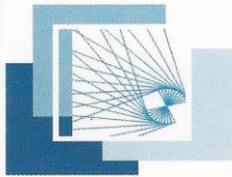
Tell the Merchant that you are from St, Nicholas Church and saw their Ad in the Church's Monthly Newsletter!!!

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

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers every Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m.
June 04, 11, 18, and 25

- Sun, June 06: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Wed, Jun 08: Vespers Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.;
Ascension of The Lord
Thurs, June 09: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; Ascension
of The Lord
Sun, June 12: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Sat, June 18: Blessing Of Graves, Mt. Tomori
Sun, June 19: Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.; Pentecost
Father's Day Picnic
Fri, June 24: Akathist, 7:00 p.m.; Holy Spirit
Sun, June 26: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Tues, June 28: Vespers Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.;
Sts. Peter and Paul
Wed, June 29: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; Sts. Peter
and Paul

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

June 05: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

**June 12: Stefan BALTADORI/Izzy
TSAMBLAKOS**

June 19: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE

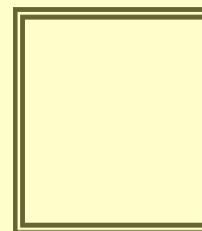
June 26: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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