

THE ORTHODOX POST

November 2016

Volume XII, Issue 10



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432
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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

The last couple weeks have been rich with baptisms: a joy to see the young enter into the faith, a joy to witness the far streams of our community come running together, a joy to see the future of our Church present incarnate. And as we bless these children and their families and their sponsors, I am struck again and again at the power of our prayer in these services and at the force of the poetic images that make our voices rise in praise. For it's been a difficult year for many at St. Nicholas Church—a year little different than all that have preceded it but one that must ever bring mixed joy and sorrow. Some are sick; some have died; some are struggling in quiet and aloneness; and always our list of names for prayer grows longer, stronger with the urgency of needs owed and owned.

At baptism, we are reminded of our place. When we aid the new to find their spot in the ranks of those learning to know and love God, we hear again those prayers and vows that ushered us, too, into this arena of salvation and struggle. And we hear most emphatically that we have a place, that we are beloved, that despite all of our obsessions and self-doubt, we are more than our wants, far more than what we think we lack. Because it's perilously easy to see what we're not. Yet the

President's Message

By Jim Liolin

The month of November asks that we make a few personal commitments:

First— your financial PLEDGE for 2017. This enables us to budget for the activities in the coming new year.

Second—is to attend and participate in the semi-annual General Meeting on November 13. Your presence and contributions in the meeting are important for all of us to understand the changing environment of the community and what that means for the Church.

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message of our faith is that we are far more than what we believe is missing or incomplete in us, so much more than those absences and wants we find in ourselves often and easily. Despite what we may have been taught or what we may think that we know about being Christians, our goal is not some self-perfection or self-mastery, not the evolution of ourselves into ever more perfect, righteous, or good people. Our aim is to live in the burning fire of a love so perfect that it makes all our inadequacies fall away as insubstantial dross, a love that we cannot ever reciprocate but can work to reflect more and more.

Continued on Page 8

Third— our parish will continue the Food and Coat Drive that provides comfort to those in need in the local area. When you see the signs in the hall please offer what you can.

Fourth— for those with children please continue to bring them to Sunday School, it is important for them to learn about their faith and develop relationships.

These commitments and attendance at Liturgy prepare us to understand the meaning of Christmas.

Looking ahead to December St. Nicholas Day luncheon will Sunday December. And note that Christmas day falls on a SUNDAY this year.

See you in Church.

Coffee List

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

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



November 06 Open

13 Christina Liolin / Alexandra Liolin

20 Silvana Kutali / Tina Korra

27 Donna Foundos / Viola Kallinikos

December 04 Open

11 St. Nicholas Day Luncheon

18 Pancake Breakfast

25 Christmas Day

January 01 New Years Day

Well, we did it again!!! We had another successful Flea Market/Bake Sale! The sale of the items donated and the delicious spinach pies and other goodies translates to a profit of over \$4500!! Once again, our customers were delighted. A few even shed tears of joy because they could so reasonably purchase clothing & shoes for family & friends in Haiti which was devastated by the hurricane. Some shopped for family & friends in the Philippines and others had fun browsing for just the right thing they could use. This year, I am so pleased to say that we had such a wonderful team working; it really made the event so much easier. What a difference when we share the load!! Thank you so much for all your help.

We will be having a Daughters' meeting in the next few weeks to take care of pending and new business. It will be announced in church.

We wish you and your loved ones a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING!! It certainly is a time to reflect and count your blessings and realize how much you appreciate your loved ones. We take so much for granted regarding special people in our lives, our health and more. Somehow the holidays and the end of the year seem to come upon us and pass so quickly. Let us try to slow it down a bit, be in the moment and enjoy it. It's also a good time to take the opportunity to reach out and call someone you haven't seen in a while, someone that's perhaps been missing for health reasons. It surely will bring a smile to their face and yours too!

BRING YOUR CHILD TO SUNDAY SCHOOL



2017 Pledge Program – St. Nicholas Needs Your Financial Support!!!

The Pledge Program Campaign for 2017 has begun. Letters, information and Pledge Cards have been mailed to both those who made a Pledge in the past years and those other families who are a part of the St. Nicholas Church Community, but who did not Pledge financial support last year.

During the Pledge Program Campaign the Church asks “You”, the Parishioner, to tell it how much you will commit to donate to St. Nicholas during next year, 2017.

To serve the Parish Community and operate the Church, it costs more than \$150,000 each year. Currently, only about one-half of this cost is raised by the Pledge. Today, St. Nicholas has about 100 families supporting the Church with the Pledge Program. There are another hundred families who attend Church periodically, but who did not Pledge in 2016. Typical yearly Pledges range from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. The average pledge per family is \$700.

Together, through this 2017 Pledge Program, we must try to raise more money to support St. Nicholas. Each of us is asked to do the best we can – that is “Increase last year’s Pledge amount” or if you did not Pledge for 2016, “Submit the best Pledge you can for 2017”. Let’s increase our financial support of St. Nicholas!!! Turn in your PLEDGE CARD NOW!!!!

General Parish Meeting – Come & Participate!!!!!!

Sunday, November 13th, after Liturgy

Participate in Important Church Business



Come and Get Involved!!!!!!

- Sunday School & Religious Education
- Events & Activities
- Fundraising Plans
- Financial Review
- Archdiocese & OCA News



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

**St. Nicholas Day Luncheon
Sunday, December 11th**

**Come Celebrate our Church’s
Feast Day**

Bring Friends & Family

St. Nicholas Church Golf Outing a Success!!!

Once again great weather and a distinguished group of golfers and diners made our 19th Annual Golf Outing a great success!!! The call to get on the golf carts came at noon and shortly thereafter; the carts started rolling out and golfing began.

After golf, the players returned to the beautiful clubhouse and Woodlands Restaurant. After drinks and dinner, winners were announced and the grand raffle prizes were distributed.

Thanks goes to all those who participated in this event, especially those who worked at the outing to make it a huge success, as well as those who worked so hard to bring in the sponsorships and prize donations. It was a job well done by the Team!!!



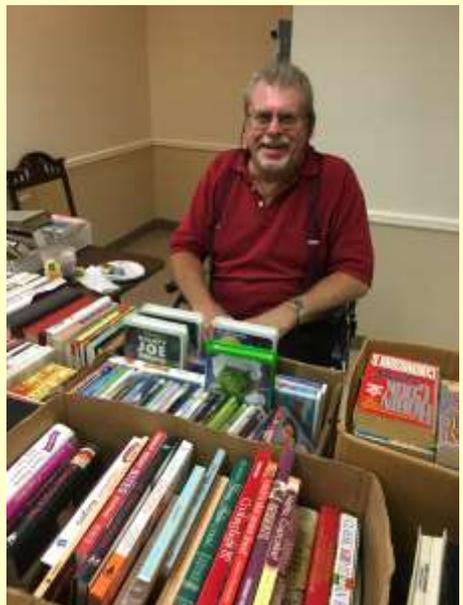
St. Nicholas Church Golf Outing – continued



Flea Market & Bake Sale – A Great Success!!!

On Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16, the Daughters of St. Nicholas ran their annual Flea Market & Bake Sale. Our community and many neighbors in the area attended this event. People especially enjoyed buying and eating the variety of ethnic foods – lakror, baklava and many other pastries, as well as shopping for clothing, jewelry, books, toys, games and household goods among other things. A special “Thank You” goes to all those who worked on the extensive preparations for this event and who worked to sell food at the bake sale table and kitchen, as well as to the sections selling clothes, shoes, jewelry, books, electronics, household goods, children’s toys and sports equipment.

A hearty “Congratulations and a Job Well Done!!!” to all the “Daughters” that made this event possible.



Flea Market & Bake Sale - continued



Pastor's Message – Continued from Page 1

In the blessing of the waters at baptism, we recount the nature of creation and we ready ourselves to be a better and finer part of it. The universe is painted there as a panting thing ready to spring forth with life and joy but doing so only inasmuch as it centers itself near to that God Who creates and sustains. The cosmos is shown as fecund, trembling with the good that can be in it. And we begin to be ready also for that good that can be in us too.

Before Thee tremble all the powers endowed with intelligence. The sun sings to Thee. The moon glorifies Thee. The stars meet together before Thy presence. The light obeys Thee. The deeps tremble before Thee. The water-springs are subject unto Thee. Thou hast spread out the heavens like a tent...

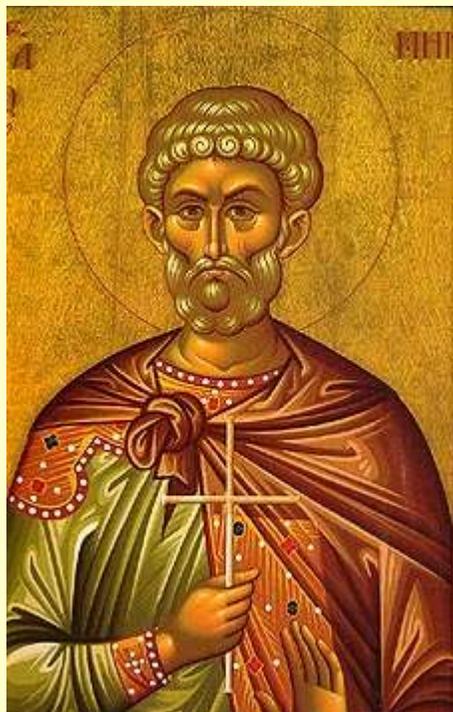
COMMUNITY NEWS

By Linda Foundos

- A second daughter was born on September 16th to Alessandra & Erald Troja. Sophia is delighted to have a live, 8 pound baby doll named Emily to play with! The grandparents, Eli & Petrika Troja are thrilled with the new family member! May God bless Emily with a very long, happy & healthy life.
- Congratulations to Enea Topore on his engagement to Morgan. His parents, Adriana & Andrea are so happy for Enea & Morgan as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Brother, Jonathan Topore is with his band on a world tour!! Sounds like to Topore family has a lot of exciting things going on. All the best to the entire family. We wish them much happiness and success.
- On October 22nd, Charlotte Wollocko was baptized with Kim Oswald and Brian Wollocko as her sponsors. Charlotte's parents Jennifer & Jack, grandparents Tina & Dave Jarrett, and great-grandmother Viola Kallinikos, were beaming as Charlotte was welcomed into the faith. May God bless Charlotte and her entire family.
- Ediona, the daughter of Oneda & Edi Sera graduated from Cornell University and is currently working at a cyber-security company in New York City. Ediona was an exemplary student and a fencing champion. Her family is so proud of her and her accomplishments as are we all! She has a very bright future ahead.
- Lou Foundos was recently awarded a special medal and "The Title of George Scanderbeg Order Knight" at an event by Albanian President Bujar Nishani for his work and patriotic activity to strengthen Albanian-American ties and help developing trade relations between the two countries. Lou was honored to be recognized and will certainly continue his dedicated efforts. His family is very proud of him. Congratulations!

Please contact me with news you would like to share.....graduation, new job, engagement, wedding, birth announcement, baptism, new home, travel, major accomplishment or award, get well wishes, etc.

You can email me at ggsutter@aol.com.



ST. MENAS OF EGYPT- Commemorated on November 11th
 (Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

The Holy Great Martyr Menas of Egypt, an Egyptian by birth, was a military officer and served in the Kotyaeion region of Phrygia under the centurion Firmilian during the reign of the emperors Diocletian (284–305) and Maximian (305–311). When the emperors began the fiercest persecution against Christians in history, the saint refused to serve these persecutors. He removed his soldier’s belt (a sign of military rank) and withdrew to a mountain, where he lived an ascetic life of fasting and prayer.

Once he happened to arrive in the city during a pagan festival. At the climax of the games the saint’s accusing voice rang out, preaching faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. At his trial before the prefect Pyrrhus, the saint bravely confessed his faith, saying that he had come to denounce the impious. The prefect was angered, and had Menas arrested.

Pyrrhus offered to restore the saint’s former rank if he would offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. When he refused, he was put to cruel

tortures, then he was beheaded. This occurred in the year 304. Christians gathered up the martyr’s relics by night and hid them until the end of the persecution. Later, they were brought to Egypt and placed in a church dedicated to St Menas southwest of Alexandria.

The saint received grace from God to work miracles, and to help those in need. St Menas is noted for healing various illnesses, delivering people from possession by demons, and as a protector, especially during times of war. We also ask his help in finding lost objects.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN NOVEMBER



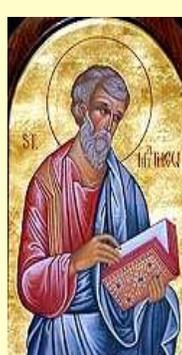
Sts Cosmas and Damian
Nov 01



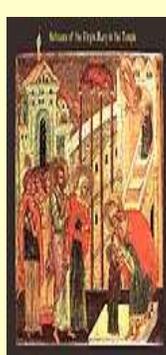
Archangel Michael and all Angels
Nov 08



St. Philip
Nov 14



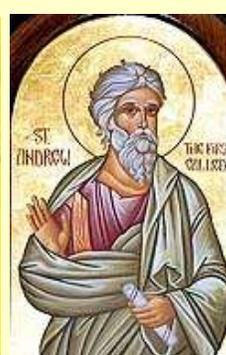
St. Matthew
Nov 16



Entry of the Theotokos
Nov 21



St. Catherine
Nov 24



St. Andrew
Nov 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

Sun, Nov 06: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Sat, Nov 12: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
 Sun, Nov 13: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Parish
 General Meeting, Fellowship Hall
NATIVITY FAST BEGINS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15
 Fri, Nov 18: Paraklesis, 7:00 p.m.
 Sat, Nov 19: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
 Sun, Nov 20: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.,
 Vespers, 5:00 pm; Entrance of
 the Theotokos
 Mon, Nov 21: Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.; Entrance of
 The Theotkos
 Thurs, Nov 24: Thanksgiving Prayers, St.
 Catherine 10:00 a.m.
 Fri, Nov 25: Paraklesis, 7:00 p.m.;
 Sat, Nov 26: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
 Sun, Nov 27: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

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

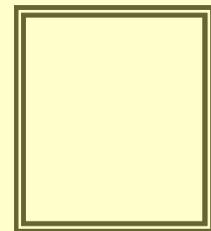
Nov 06: Stefan BALTADORI/Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
Nov 13: Nasi PAVLLO/Ardian MILE
Nov 20: Jim OSWALD/Tomi BENO
Nov 27: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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