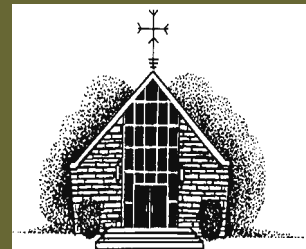


THE ORTHODOX POST

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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: snickny@aol.com Tel: 718 380-5684

Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Dear Friends,

How do I know its love?

(Answer: See St. Paul's letter below)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a

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child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall fully understand, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

Questions: How does the above speak to us about the task of Christian education in our parish? About the way we treat others? About the way we understand how people treat us? About what I am preoccupied with in my life?

Pray for me. Your friend,
+Fr. David

President's Message

By Bill Peters

I am honored to have been elected as the new Parish Council President for the next year.

As you know The St. Nicholas Parish is very active and has many spiritual, social and fund raising activities throughout the year. Even though we are a small community there is always much to be done. Recent examples include the many events of Pascha, Adult Education, the Annual Parish Meeting with

Council Member elections, the care and maintenance of the Church building and grounds, the Spring Dance, Mothers' Day Festivities, the Bishop's Visit and the Annual Picnic with the Raffle of a 40" LCD TV.

I encourage each of you with your families to participate in the life of the church. You will find it personally rewarding.

I look forward to a successful Church year and of working with you all.

Community News

By Linda Foundos

- Tina and Robert Korra had a wonderful time in Terezi, Italy, just outside of Venice. They spent a couple weeks visiting for American Easter with Robert's sister and Tina's cousin and their families. They enjoyed all the beauty of Italy. Ciao til next time!
- We send a "shout out" of get well wishes to our own Rosalie Zacharias. We miss you Rosie!! You are in our thoughts and prayers for a quick recovery.
- May the memory of Qeti Rottas be eternal. Qeti and her husband, Gavril, were pillars of the St. Nicholas community for most of their lives. They dedicated a big part of their lives to their faith and the needs of the parish. After Gavril passed away, Qeti moved to Palm Coast, Florida. She will be remembered by many in a very loving way. She is survived by her daughter Evelyn in Florida, her son Peter on Long Island, and many grandchildren who adored their grandparents.
- On Sunday, May 7th morning, Frederick(Sponsor-Afrotiti Dilo, baptized Thomas), Andi(Sponsor-Greta Dilo, baptized Peter) & Lori Dilo(Sponsor-Greta Dilo, baptized Katherine) were baptized into the Orthodox Christian faith. We welcome this father and his two children into the faith. May God bless them all.
- In addition, on Sunday, May 7th afternoon, Besnick Chano was baptized "Nikolaus"into the Orthodox Christian faith with Piro & Elisabeta Dhimoshi as Sponsors. All the best to Besnick and his family. Welcome Nikolaus to the faith.
- All the best to George Llupa in his new position as Product Analyst for Intelligent Markets. This company builds convertible bond trading platforms, that is, software that salespeople and traders use to carry on their business. George interfaces with clients to ascertain their business requirements in order to adjust the product while taking into account regulatory changes.
- Congratulations to Fr. David Fox upon his achieving a Masters of Divinity from St. Vladimirs' Seminary.
- **For Other Graduate Congratulations – See Page 4**

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church Father's Day....



Sunday, June 18th

Hempstead Lake State Park

Exit #18 on the Southern State Pkwy

11:30 a.m. til dark

SPRING FEST 2006 !

Our Dinner Dance on Sunday, May 7th was a smashing success!! What a lively, dancing, love-to-party crowd! The Inn at New Hyde Park has a lovely room, the meal was delicious, the fellowship was the best and the music great. Everyone enjoyed dancing to Binak Elezi accompanied by Suela Sadiku. And what a wonderful treat to have the internationally known Frederik Ndoci surprise us for the evening and perform at no charge! Also, The Daughters of St. Nicholas donated 10 beautiful gift baskets that were raffled off and added some income and a little extra fun to the evening. A special thank you to the following women for donating baskets for this very successful raffle: Prifteresha Kerri Fox, Linda Foundos, Christina Liolin, Adelina Llupa, Agathia Luka, and Tina Peters. In addition, many thanks to all those other people that made this festive evening so enjoyable; these include: Petrika Troja, Ilia Luka, Roland Llupa, Eli Troja, Oneda Sera and Albana Pavllo. For those of you that were not able to join us, we missed you. Hopefully, you won't miss the fun next time! And, there certainly will be a next time!



Congratulations Graduates!!!!

- It was a double celebration for the Heiser family. Christina Heiser graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School; and Melissa graduated from Junior High School. Christina will be attending St. John's University this fall; and Melissa will move on to Francis Lewis High School. The proud mother, Joanne Heiser has been a veteran volunteer working with our St. Nicholas Sunday School for many, many years. We thank Joanne for the generous giving of her time and talents. She has been an integral part of so much of the life of our St. Nicholas community. Best wishes to the Heiser family. Good luck to both Christina and Melissa.
- Some applause please for Anita Kutali who will graduate from Middle College High School in June. She is excited about attending the Fashion Institute of Technology in the fall. She has been praised for her excellent work at her part time jobs by her supervisors. Anita is an ambitious, hard-working, bright girl preparing for a successful career. Her parents, Sylvana and Andrea, and sister Chris, are very proud of her. Good luck, Anita!
- Kudos to Lauren Foundos who received her Bachelors degree in Communications with a minor in Business from University of Maryland at College Park. Lauren had a great experience at UMD including playing on a Division I Field Hockey Team. Now, she is looking forward with excitement to another phase in life called "earning a living"! We are very proud of you. You go girl!!!
- Some applause please for Damian Peters who recently completed a 20 week advanced music study course at The Collective Music Academy in New York City. Dr. Damian, a pharmacist and consultant, has been playing in jazz bands since the 6th grade! He is currently part of a band, playing the electric bass guitar. Always a lover of music.....



Archdiocese and OCA News

His Grace, Bishop Nikon made his first visit to Albania beginning on Wednesday, May 3rd. During his stay he met with His Beatitude, Archbishop Anastasios, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Albania and concelebrated liturgy at the Annunciation Cathedral in Tirana.

President Alfred Moisiu received the bishop at the presidium early in the visit. Bishop Nikon also visited the Resurrection Orthodox Seminary and Monastery of St Blaise outside Durres and met with the faculty and students, hosted by His Grace, Bishop Ilia Katre, director of the School. He is expected to pay a visit to the Home of Home foster home, a project of the Church of Albania and with the U.N.'s Development Program.

Metropolitan John Pelushi hosted Bishop Nikon in the Diocese of Korce, where they concelebrated liturgy and toured the Icon Museum as well as historic churches in Mborja, in Pogradec and in Boboshtica – the ancestral village of the bishop's family. The Bishop will visit the historic 15th Century redoubt of Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg and museum in Kruja and the National Historic Museum in the nation's capitol. He planned to meet with Orthodox missionary teams as well as leaders of various religions in the country.

Bishop Nikon returned to Boston on Thursday, May 11. He will report on his visit at the next Session of the Archdiocesan Council to be held in Natick on May 19th.

CHURCH RAFFLE

40' SONY LCD TV

Drawing: June 18 at the PICNIC

Donation: \$20 per Ticket

This Month's Major Feast Days

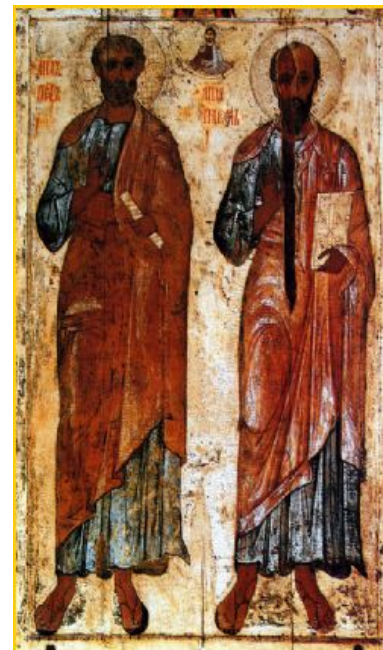
Holy Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul – June 29

Sermon of Saint Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (Edited):

Today the Holy Church piously remembers the sufferings of the Holy Glorious and All-Praised Apostles Peter and Paul. St. Peter, the fervent follower of Jesus Christ, for the profound confession of His Divinity: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God," was deemed worthy by the Savior to hear in answer, "Blessed art thou, Simon ... I tell thee, that thou art Peter [Petrus], and on this stone [petra] I build My Church" (Mt.16:16-18). On "this stone" [petra], is on that which thou sayest: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" it is on this thy confession I build My Church. Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the final days of His earthly life, chose from among the disciples His twelve Apostles to preach the Word of God. Among them, the Apostle Peter for his fiery ardor was vouchsafed to occupy the first place (Mt.10:2) and to be as it were the representative person for all the Church. After His Resurrection the Lord entrusted the Apostle Peter to shepherd His spiritual flock, Christ addresses Himself chiefly to Peter because Peter was first among the Apostles and as such the representative of the Church; besides which, having turned in this instance to Peter alone, as to the top Apostle, Christ by this confirms the unity of the Church.

The Apostle Paul, formerly Saul, was changed from a robbing wolf into a meek lamb. Formerly he was an enemy of the Church, then, is manifest as an Apostle. Having received from the high priests the authority at large to throw all Christians in chains for execution, he was already on the way, he breathed out "threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, he thirsted for blood. He came near Damascus, and the Lord from Heaven called to him: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" Saul, however, "trembling and frightened", cried out: "Who art Thou, Lord?" The Lord answered him, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest." And Saul suddenly undergoes a change: "What warest Thou me to do?" -- he cries out. And suddenly for him there is the Voice: "Arise, and go to the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do". Here the Lord sends Ananias: "Arise and go into the street" to a man, "by the name of Saul," and baptize him, "for this one is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel". And actually the Lord did show the Apostle Paul what things he had to suffer for His Name. He instructed him the deeds; He did not stop at the chains, the fetters, the prisons and shipwrecks; He Himself felt for him in his sufferings, He Himself guided him towards this day.

On a single day the memory of the sufferings of both these Apostles is celebrated, though they suffered on separate days, but by the spirit and the closeness of their suffering they constitute one. Peter went first, and Paul followed soon after him. And so, brethren, celebrating now the memory of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, remembering their venerable sufferings, we esteem their true faith and holy life, we esteem the innocence of their sufferings and pure confession. Loving in them the sublime quality and imitating them by great exploits, "in which to be likened to them", and we shall attain to that eternal bliss which is prepared for all the saints.



Bishop Nikon Visits St. Nicholas Church



On Sunday, May 21st, Bishop Nikon celebrated Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church amid a large number of Parishioners that came to greet his Grace. Baptism and Memorial services were also performed.

A Reception with a wonderful brunch which was prepared by the Daughters of St. Nicholas was attended by all. This Reception in the Fellowship Hall provided Bishop Nikon and Parishioners the opportunity to greet one another on a personal basis.

In addition, on Saturday evening, May 20th, Bishop Nikon met with several members of the Parish Council and the Parish at a dinner meeting. They shared information about Parish activities, Archdiocese activities and Bishop Nikon's recent trip to Albania.

A "Thank You" to all that made this weekend with the Bishop a success!!!! Especially the "Daughters"!!!!

Major Church Activities and Events

- Sun. June 4th:** Sunday School Teachers Meeting;
Daughters' Meeting; Youth Group
Meeting After Services
- Tues. June 6th:** Parish Council Meeting
7:30 pm
- Sun. June 18th:** Father's Day; Annual Picnic
at Hempstead Lake State Park,
Nassau County; 11:30am to Dark
- Thurs. June 29th:** The Feast of SS Peter and Paul

**Beginning June 18th, Divine Liturgy will begin
for the Summer at 9:30 a.m.**

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

- May 28:** Bill Peters / Nick Papajorgji
- June 04:** Petrika Troja / Ilia Luka
- June 11:** Xhoxhi Coka / Nasi Pavllo
- June 18:** Ardian Mile / Thoma Beno
- June 25:** Lou Foundos / Robert Kora
- July 02:** Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- July 09:** Bill Peters / Nick Papajorgji

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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181-14 Midland Parkway
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



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