

THE ORTHODOX POST

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

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Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Dear friends,

It is a joy to begin a third year with you. In many ways, we are experiencing growing pains, as a community.

Below are three great gifts from our Orthodox Tradition about stretching ourselves too far; and judging each other. May they be a blessing to you.

Pray for me.

Your friend,

+Fr. David

- A hunter in the desert saw Abba Anthony enjoying himself with the brethren and he was shocked.

Wanting to show him that it was necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the brethren, the old man said to him, "Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it."

So he did.

The old man said, "Shoot another."

And he did so.

The old man said, "Shoot yet again."

And the hunter replied, "If I bend my bow so much I

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Father David's Message	1
President's Message	1
Daughters of St. Nicholas	2
Bake Sale & Flea Market	2
Sunday School Kick-Off	3
Parish, Community & Archdiocese News	4,5,6
This Month's Major Feast Day	7
Major Events & Sunday Ushers' List	8

will break it." Then the old man said to him, "It is the same with the work of God. If we stretch the brethren beyond measure they will soon break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down to meet their needs."

When he heard these words the hunter was pierced by compunction and greatly edified by the old man, he went away.

As for the brethren, they went home strengthened.

- A brother in the monastery committed a fault.

A council was called to which Moses the Black (the Ethiopian) was invited, but he refused to go.

The priest sent someone to him saying, "Come, for everyone is waiting for you."

Please see *Pastor's Message* on page 4

President's Message

By Bill Peters

As was evident from the reports and discussions at the General Meeting on Sunday, September 24th, our St. Nicholas Parish in serving the community is very active and has many needs. Our activities and programs care for our spiritual, social and fund-raising requirements. Many of these are described in this and other monthly issues of The Orthodox Post.

Keeping our church running requires financial support from all of us. During October and November,

the Pledge Program will reach out to each of you to seek your financial pledge to support the church for 2007. Pledge Letters, information sessions and collection of Pledges will occur. Your best possible financial commitment is necessary for the growth of our church. Please become aware of our needs and do your best!!!

A **Special Thanks** to Al Foundos and his Team for another successful Golf Outing!!! Through their Stewardship efforts, a great deal of money was raised to support the needs of St. Nicholas.

Daughters' Corner

By Christina Liolin

On Sunday, September 17th the Daughters of St. Nicholas met to discuss fall activities. It was decided to hold the Bake Sale & Flea Market on Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29. As we did last year, we will be selling baked goods, new and/or gently used clothing and new and/or gently used household items on a limited basis. We will be organizing work schedules in the next couple of weeks and can use all the help we can get!

A new Coffee List has been posted on the bulletin board. Please look for your name so that you will be prepared on your scheduled Sunday. We are always in need of Meshe because we use at least 2 every Sunday, so please bake whenever you can.

Let us know the days and times you are available so that we can plan the work groups. Also, Tina Peters will be organizing a lakror committee to bake the week before the Bake Sale. Please speak with her if you are available to come in and help. If you have any questions regarding what items to bring in, please speak with:

Christina Liolin, President

Irma Mile, Vice President

Tina Peters, Bake Sale Chairperson

Please make note of the dates and I hope we can count on you to help on that weekend!

Bake Sale & Flea Market

October 28th & 29th



Our annual event will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 28th (10am–5pm) & 29th (12–4pm).

We urge you to get involved, participate in any number of ways. You can donate items for sale, donate baked goods, help with the preparation of the sale, work the weekend of the sale, or make a financial contribution to help defray some of our costs.

When you select items to bring in please follow the guidelines below:

- We will be accepting gently used clothing only. Please be sure that the clothes you bring in are clean, in good condition and not torn.
- You may bring in new and/or gently used household items on a limited basis. Please do not bring in furniture or anything that is in bad condition or broken.
- Books are welcome.
- Items will be accepted from October 15th up to Wednesday, October 25th. We ask that you do not bring in anything outside of these dates as it is very difficult for us to store them.

GET INVOLVED, WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

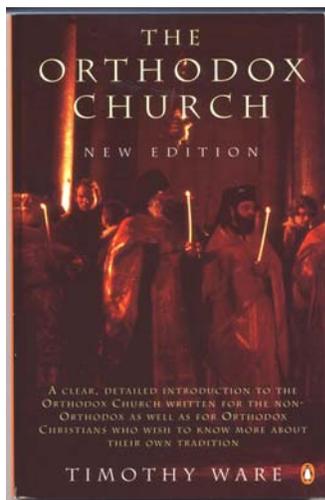


Sunday School Kick-Off

We are so thankful to Lou and Linda Foundos, who hosted an incredible Sunday School kick-off picnic. The teachers have been busy preparing their rooms. We are planning to have three classes in the classroom area downstairs, a nursery, a middle school class upstairs in the church office, and a high school class in the sanctuary. The Board is busy trying to find ways to maximize our space. You can help by keeping the Sunday School rooms clean downstairs and staying out of the Church office while there is a class going on.



Adult Study



Have you ever wondered what we were doing in the Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings? Or, what we believed as Orthodox Christians? Beginning on Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. at the Church, Fr. David will offer a study for anyone who wishes to come. We will first read through together the chapter on the meaning of the Divine Liturgy, written by Fr. Tom Hopko, in his introductory volume on Orthodox worship. After concluding this, we will read Bishop Kallistos Ware's classic little introduction to Orthodox Faith in *The Orthodox Way*. Here is a schedule of the class dates (time will be from 7–8:15 p.m.):

Tuesdays: Sept 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 10, Oct 24
(no class week of Oct. 16th)

Wednesdays: Nov 1

More information in the next Post.

Orthodox Education Day

Saturday, October 7th – All Day

St. Vladimir Seminary, Crestwood NY

Theme: "All Ages, One Faith: Exploring the Inter-Generational Nature of the Orthodox Church." Tents on the lawn will house the Divine Liturgy, ethnic foods & other activities.

Golf Outing, a Shinning Success!



A Great Time was had by all

Once again great weather and a grand group of golfers and diners made our 9th Annual Golf Outing a great success. The day started at 9:30 AM with the working crew doing the set-up and getting ready for the golfers. As the golfers kept checking in, they received the "goodies"; golf balls, towels, cigar and some sustenance candy, chips and water. The call to get on the golf carts came at 11:45 AM and by 12 noon, the carts started rolling out to their designated holes.

With the sun shining upon us, the challenge to hit that little ball accurately was evasive as always, but then golfers only remember the times when they strike the golf ball...well, the other times, the strokes just add to the score. The golfers returned to the beautiful clubhouse at the Woodlands Restaurant located on the course with beautiful views all around for drinks and dinner. Several of our Church members joined us for dinner. Nasi Pavlo brought a beautiful fruit basket and Edi Sera brought a restaurant gift certificate for our raffle.

After drinks and dinner, we announced the golf score winners and we had three from our Church: Richard Kasuli – lowest score and his wife Georgianne won in the ladies' group. Closest to the pin was George Llupa. They all received trophies for their skill on the course. Then we followed with a grand raffle of over 60 prizes and lady luck smiled on some who won multiple prizes, while others waited. All in all, it turned out to be a great success as a golf function with fellowship galore and also a very successful fund raiser. Everyone left with great compliments for a day of fun and enjoyment.

We want to thank all our helpers first and foremost: Donna Oswald and our secretary at Lamsia, Cathy Heimbauer. Then on golf day we had a crew with Linda Foundos, Viola Kallinikos and Ruth Malasko. Then, our young ladies selling raffles; Jana Foundos, Christine Beno and Donna Oswald. Of course, the co-chairmen Phil Foundos and Jim Oswald were all over helping in every way possible.

Community News

Linda Foundos

- Rosalie Zacharias, her sister and a friend enjoyed a 5-day Carnival cruise from Manhattan to Nova Scotia. Cruising with great friends is great fun!!
- Our Olympian, Phil Foundos. Completed his 7th Sprint Triathlon in Oyster Bay. He beat his last year's time by 4 minutes! The Triathlon is swimming, biking and running.....certainly not an easy task, except for Phil, of course!!
- Albana, Nasi and Thea Pavllo enjoyed a month vacation in Greece. They spent 1 week in Athens and 3 weeks in Platamona. It was great fun visiting with Nasi's brother and his family, at the beach, shopping and eating dinner under the stars. Until next time.....
- May God bless Christopher and Teodona Bode who were recently baptized into the Orthodox Christian faith. They are the grandchildren of Donika Bode and children of Alfredo and Aida Bode. All the best to the entire family.
- The Guma family, Dhimiter, Marsela, Ilios and Tedi, had a fabulous time for 3 weeks in Albania. It was so good to spend time with family and friends in Vlora.
- Gloria Sawyer was delighted to fly to Chicago to spend some time with Fr. Elijah, Rebecca and Gabriel Mueller. The Mueller family is doing well. Gabriel is now 9 years old and quite a guy!!
- Lenore Apostolu and 3 friends had a dream vacation in Portugal! They rented a villa in Algarve, a coastal area with gorgeous beaches. The fresh fish dinners were absolutely delicious. They spent 3 days touring Lisbon. They also visited the holy site of Fatima where there were sightings of the Blessed Mother. It is said that Portugal has 360 days of sunshine! Happy Birthday, Lenore! Per shume vjet, gezuar!
- Congratulations to Steven Foundos on being elected National Treasurer of the Albanian-American National Organization. We are confident that Steve will do a great job. Nothing happens by itself! It's good to be involved in worthwhile causes and organizations.
- Zana, Ilir and Fiona Fundo traveled to Korce to help celebrate Thomaq's nephew's wedding. How wonderful to visit with family and friends. Congratulations to the newlyweds!
- Wedding bells will be ringing for the newly engaged Telo (Harry) Kondili, son of Lena and Fotaq Kondili, to Mirela Miraj. Mirela is currently working at the Brooklyn D.A.'s office Investigative Unit. Telo is working at Lazard Freres researching international emerging markets. Congratulations to this ambitious, happy couple and their families. We wish them much happiness.
- Happy First Anniversary to Nevilla and Ivan Kondili!!!
- There are no words for the loss of a child.....Our deepest sympathy to the Nache family on the passing of son Robert, 57 years old in Florida. Robert had been married and had 4 children and was a grandfather. Agatha Nache was a pillar of the St. Nicholas community for so many years before retiring to Florida. Agatha also has 3 daughters, Janet, Carol and Angela. May Robert's memory be eternal.
- ***If anyone has any news they would like to share, please contact Linda Foundos. News includes: births, deaths, baptisms, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, get well wishes, graduations, new job, new home, vacation, special accomplishments or awards, etc.***

Parish General Meeting



Pastor's Message from page 1

So he got up and went. He took a sack, filled it with sand and cut a small hole at the bottom and carried it on his shoulders. The others came out to meet him and said, "What is this, father?"

Abba Moses said to them, "My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another."

When they heard that they said no more to the brother but forgave him.

- Some old men went to Abba Poemen and asked, "If we see brothers sleeping during the synaxis (common prayer) should we wake them?"

Abba Poemen answered, "If I see my brother sleeping, I will put his head on my knee and let him rest."

Then one old man spoke up, "And how do you explain yourself before God?"

Abba Poemen replied, "I say to God: You have said, 'First take the beam out of your own eye and then you will be able to remove the splinter from the eye of your brother.'"

On Sunday, September 24, after Liturgy, the Parish held its Semi-Annual General Meeting.

The life of the Parish was addressed: Fr. David presented highlights of the spiritual life of the Parish, Activity Leaders gave reports reviewing Sunday School, Youth/Adult Education, Daughters Activities, Financial Matters and major Parish Activities/Events.

The Pledge Program for next year was described by Jim Liolin and Al Foundos. They stressed the importance of Parishioner personal and financial support for keeping the church running and for future growth.

Also, Parish representatives were selected to attend the Archdiocese Annual Assembly in Detroit, Michigan on October 19 -21.

Archdiocese News

The Albanian Archdiocese will hold its Annual Assembly in Detroit, Michigan from Thursday, October 19 thru Saturday, October 21. It will be hosted by St. Thomas Albanian Orthodox Church of Farmington.

This annual gathering of the Albanian Orthodox Churches provides for meeting with Bishop Nikon, talking with representatives of other parishes to share experiences and issues, and partaking of good fellowship. The formal assembly will hear an address from Bishop Nikon regarding the state of the Archdiocese, review budget and investment reports, review proposed Changes for Parish Dues to the Archdiocese, and elect Archdiocese officers for next year. Attendees from St. Nicholas Church will include Fr. David Fox, Bill Peters and Jim Liolin.

**FOR SALE
PARISH VAN**

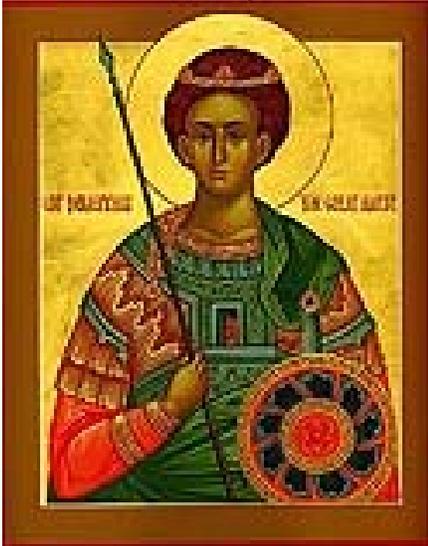


INTERESTED IN BUYING THE VAN???
CONTACT:

**BILL PETERS, PETRIKA TROJA
OR LOU FOUNDOS**

This Month's Major Feast Days

Holy and Glorious Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica – October 26



The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of St Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home.

By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confident in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica and immediately confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. The compiler of his Life, St Simeon Metaphrastes says that because of his teaching zeal he became "a second Apostle Paul" for Thessalonica, particularly since "the Apostle to the Gentiles" once founded at this city the first community of believers.

The Lord also destined St Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the rage of the emperor know no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians.

Learning of this, St Demetrius ordered his faithful servant to distribute his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom. When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. An angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him.

Meanwhile the emperor amused himself by staging games in the circus. His champion was a German by the name of Lyaeos. He challenged Christians to wrestle with him on a platform built over the upturned spears of the victorious soldiers. A brave Christian named Nestor went to the prison to his advisor Demetrius and requested a blessing to fight the barbarian. With the blessing and prayers of Demetrius, Nestor prevailed over the fierce German and hurled him from the platform onto the spears of the soldiers, just as the murderous pagan would have done with the Christian. The enraged commander ordered the execution of the holy Martyr Nestor and sent a guard to the prison to kill St. Demetrius.

At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, St Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of St Demetrius, and he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified by the blood of St Demetrius, St Lupus began to heal the infirm. The emperor issued orders to arrest and kill him. The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of St. Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of St Demetrius. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrius, so he is called "the Myrrh-gusher".

St. Demetrius is regarded as a protector of the young, and is also invoked by those struggling with lustful temptations.

Major Church Activities and Events

Adult Study: The Liturgy & The Orthodox Way
7pm Tuesdays: Sept 26, Oct 3, 10 & 24
7pm Wednesdays: Nov 1

Wed, Oct 4: Parish Council Meeting
7pm

Sat, Oct 7: Orthodox Education Day at
All Day St. Vladimir Seminary

Thurs-Sat, Oct 19-21: Archdiocese Assembly
Detroit, MI

Sat (10am-5pm) Oct 28: Bake Sale & Flea Market
Sun (12n-4pm) Oct 29: at St. Nicholas Church

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Oct. 01: Bill Peters / Nick Papjorgji
Oct. 08: Petrika Troja / Fotaq Kondili
Oct. 15: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
Oct. 22: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
Oct. 29: Damian Peters / Jim Oswald
Nov. 05: Xhoxhi Coka / Nasi Pavlo

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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