

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,

Greetings to all. I hope you are finding some time to enjoy a break, take a vacation, and spend time with family. Every week in the Liturgy we offer a special prayer for those who are traveling, too. Recently, someone had questions about heaven and hell. Enclosed below is an article featured in another Church bulletin that may be of help.

Rebels Against An Angry God Full Of Vengeance

This is a theme which needs to be preached with great insistence for not only the West but we Orthodox have departed from it in great numbers, causing men to fall to atheism because they are revolted against a falsified angry

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God full of vengeance toward His creatures...

We must urgently understand that God is responsible only for everlasting life and bliss, and that hell (gehenna) is nothing else but the rejection of this everlasting life and bliss, the everlasting revolt against the everlasting love of God...

Pastor's Message continued on Page 4

President's Message

By Bill Peters

Summertime - A period for relaxing and enjoying vacation time!!! Our July 1st Annual Picnic was a good way for many Parishioners to start the Summer Fun.

During July and August, very important planning activities are performed to assure a smooth and effective start of the new church year in September. Getting ready for Sunday School in the Fall is one example which involves acquiring enough teachers, finalizing plans for new lessons, structuring the various student age groups, and planning the registration and kick-off activities. Another example of Parish planning is the setting of schedules for critical activities, which include the September General Parish Meeting, the Archdiocese Annual Assembly, as well as our traditional fund-raising activities such as the September Golf Outing and the October Flea Market & Bazaar.

This year we have the additional requirements for our Building Expansion Project.

This need consists of finalizing plans and raising the funds to pay for the project. The first involves working with the architect to finalize detailed plans as well as to evaluate space and cost options. For fund-raising, it involves developing a program for additional activities, training of people to present the case for the need for money to the members of the Parish Community so the individual Parishioner can make a special Building Project Commitment of money to be paid over a one, two or three year period.

Approximately \$200,000 must be raised to pay for the Building Expansion Project. To proceed beyond initial planning for this Project, an initial amount of \$85,000 must be collected or pledged by individuals by the end of this year. When the Fund-Raising Appeal begins in September and you are asked for a Building Project Pledge, consider the Project's benefits to you, your family and to the Parish Community, especially our Children.

Please make as large a Pledge to the a Building Project as you are able to handle!!!!

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By Adelina Llupa

Kete rrاده po japim nje vjershe nga Asdreni, (Aleks Stavre Drenova) me titull "Mallkim", marre nga libri "Rreze Drite". Mesazhi I vjershes per ne eshte te ruajme gjuhen tone shqipe, edhe pse jemi larg vendit tone.

MALLKIM

O gjuhe qe je derguar prej engjell,
Qe s'ke net ere bote shembull,
Sa qenk'e bukur dh'e bekuar;
Kush s'te do, qoft' I mallkuar !

Qe mije vjet ne mos u shojte,
Dhe jeten e erresires n'e rrojte,
Por sot je shkruar dhe kenuar;
Kush s'te do, qoft' I mallkuar !

Pse nxini ditën me greqishten,
Me turcen dhe arabishten?
Mesoni shqipen te ndrituar,
Ne mos, qofshi te mallkuar !

Per Zotn' e math e te vertete,
Ne jinni atdhetare te nxehte,
Shkruani, flisni shqipen te qeruar,
Ne mos, qofshi te mallkuar !

The Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

On Sunday, June 10th, the Daughters had a lovely & very enjoyable afternoon at Crabtree's Restaurant in Floral Park. The room was filled with smiles and laughter. Unfortunately, we had limited space and such a wonderful response to our luncheon invitation. We apologize to those that were not able to join us. We can avoid such situations in the future if we rsvp and make a reservation promptly so we can plan for the proper number of people. We look forward to having you join us next time

For all those are traveling this summer, we wish you a safe and fun vacation. There have been many church activities all through the month with baptisms, funerals and regular Sunday fellowship. It is a beautiful thing to see the church full and people greeting & visiting with each other. We've also had many children in church each Sunday. They too are happy to see each other and getting better acquainted with each other and our faith.

Looking ahead, the next major event for the Daughters is our annual Rummage & Bake Sale in October. Watch for details and begin to gather what you can donate to be sold. Please make certain that your items are clean and in good condition. We, of course, will be looking for volunteers, so plan to come and help. You'll be surprised how rewarding it is!!!

Just to clarify "The Daughters of St. Nicholas," following is an insert from our Parish Handbook: "The Daughters of St. Nicholas welcomes all of the women in the church community. Our mission is to coordinate with the Parish Council to help make the church run as smoothly as possible in every way we can and to promote a sisterhood amongst the women. Our Sunshine Person sends thoughtful notes periodically throughout the year to reach out to women that are unable to come to church any longer or are home for an extended illness. We plan social activities for the women and hold fundraisers such as bake sales, raffles and an annual rummage sale. We work hand in hand with the Parish Council to tend to all the needs and activities in the life of the St. Nicholas Community. Elections are held annually. Meetings are held every couple months, or as needed for special events. "

Sunday School Graduation



On June 10th, St. Nicholas Sunday School children graduated to the next classes. Many years to our Sunday School teachers, Prifteresha Kerri Fox, Barbara Duggan, Alexandra Liolin, Grace Holinski, Joanne Heiser, Jim Oswald, Tina Peters and our Albanian language teacher Adelina Llupa.

Congratulations to the following children: Christianna Sera, Alex Oswald, Paris Fox, Helena Mertiri, George Beno, Maximos Fox, Daniel Oswald, Thea Pavllo, Matt Foundos, Christiana Foundos, Hurley Fox, Ediona Sera, Kim Oswald, Victoria Mertiri, Angela Mile, Melissa Heiser, Niko Fox, Jamie Beno, Dea Anna Cano, Bessnik Cano, Kristina Dhimoshi, Tomi Dhimoshi, Kristie Kolilias, Konstantine Kolilias, Genny Asameni, Joy Asameni, George Vangjel, Ronald Lekthi, Nei Joanidhi, Patris Joanidhi.

Summer Sunday School



During July and August, there will be a One Room School House for any children who come to Liturgy. The children will be reading stories from the Bible during the summer months.

Sunday School Fall Pool Party



There will be a Pool Party to kick-off the Fall start of Sunday School!!! It is for all Sunday School Children and their Families.

The Pool Party will be held on Sunday, August 26th after Liturgy at the home of Linda & Lou Foundos.

New students are also invited.

COME & HAVE A GREAT TIME!!!!

Want to be a Sunday School Teacher????



During the Summer, Teachers will be meeting and finalizing new school curricular for the Fall.

For more Information –
Contact Fr. David

PICNIC

A GREAT SUCCESS!!!!

The weather was perfect for our annual St. Nicholas Church Picnic on Sunday, July 1st.

The delicious smell of meats cooking on the barbeques was all around. The kids had a great time playing. The men enjoyed an intense game of soccer. Everyone was happy to socialize and enjoy the beautiful day.

There was some excitement when a flat screen TV was raffled off and won by Roland Celso.

This year our Picnic was a bit later than we have had in the past. Next year we will try our best to reserve an earlier date in June.

Pastor's Message – continued from Page 1

We must urgently remember and preach that it is not a creation of God but a creation (product) of our revolted liberty, that God did not create any punishing instrument that is called hell, that God never takes vengeance on His revolted creatures, that His justice has nothing to do with the legalistic "justice" of human society which punishes the wicked in order to defend itself...

That our everlasting spiritual death is not inflicted on us by God, but is a spiritual suicide, everlasting because our decision to be friends or enemies of God is a completely free and everlasting decision of the free spiritual beings created by God, a decision which is respected by God eternally and absolutely.

And indeed, our Saviour Himself says: "And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not; for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (Jn. 12:46-48)

-- *From The Soul, The Body, & Death*
by Archbishop Lazar Puhalo quoting
Dr. Alexandre Kalomiros

BAPTISMS



Baptism is our entrance into the Church, new birth in Christ, forgiveness of sins. Baptizing a child or being Baptized is the greatest gift and also the greatest responsibility God gives to us. Baptisms will take place on Sundays, the

day of the Lord's Resurrection.

It is with joy that we have welcomed the following persons who have been recently Baptized into the St. Nicholas community.

"To All, Many Years!!!!"

June 16th: Many Blessings to Andrew Phillip Foundos baptized with Donna Oswald & Matthew Adams as Sponsors; Congratulations to Andrew's parents Jana & Phil Foundos and his grandparents Al Foundos and Marion & Nick Adams.

June 24th: Congratulations on their baptism to Mitro and Paulina Mertiri, children of Ardian and Saveta Mertiri and relatives of Ilia and Agathia Luka. Mitro's Godfather was Julian Mulla and Paulina's Godmother was Agathia Luka.

July 1st: Congratulations to Eduart Shkurti on his baptism. His Godmother was Ornela Rehova.

July 8th: Congratulations to Jason Hart on his baptism. His Godfather was Richard Kasuli.

July 15th: Congratulations on her baptism to Helena Mertiri, daughter of Themistokli and Antoneta Mertiri. Helena's godmother was Irini Tahiraj.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- A lovely bridal shower was given for Beti Beno by her mother, Diana Beno, on June 16th. Beti was so happy and appreciative to receive such beautiful things from family and friends as she and Izzy prepare for their wedding day in September.
- A very happy “special” birthday to Roland Llupa. His wife, Adelina, took him to Montreal, Canada to celebrate. They thoroughly enjoyed their trip, especially Quebec City. We wish Roland many, many more happy and healthy years.
- Well, it looks like Kristi Kutali has some “Hollywood” in her blood!!!! During her 10th grade at Long Island City High School, Kristi enrolled in an advanced theater class. They worked on 4 musicals throughout the school year. At the end of the school year, she performed in a tribute to Broadway’s Rodgers & Hammerstein. Kristi was the “queen” in Cinderella, the “nurse” in South Pacific, “Louisa” in Sound of Music and the “princess” in The King & I. Her parents Sylvana & Andrea Kutali and sister Anita are very proud of Kristi and her talent. Bravo!!
- Kudos to Alison Papalexis as she completed her first year of law at St. John’s University making the “Law Review” which means she was selected for a special distinction of excellence. Her parents, Barbara & Mark, and family are very proud of her.

Memory Eternal:

- Our deepest sympathy to Helen & Peter Panajoti and family on the very sad loss of their son Edward who died unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 22nd at 31 years of age. Edward was the youngest of 3 siblings including Andrew and Kathy. Edward was a source of great pride and joy as he matured into a fine young man who excelled in school, became an attorney and was very attentive to Helen & Peter. He is deeply missed. May his memory be eternal. Forty Day memorial prayers and a reception were offered in his memory on Sunday, June 24th.
- On, Sunday, June 24th, One Year memorial prayers were offered in remembrance of Thoma Beno, father of Dhimitir Beno and a reception was held in his honor in the Fellowship Hall. I Perjetshim Kujtimi I Ti.
- On Sunday, July 1st, Two Year memorial prayers were offered for Olimbia Nasi, mother of Billy Nasi.
- On Sunday, July 8th, 40 Day memorial prayers were offered for Helena P. Liolin. Bishop Nikon attended services and conducted the memorial prayers for his mother, Helena. A brunch in her honor was provided by the family in the Fellowship Hall.
- On Sunday, July 15th, Six Month memorial prayers were offered for Eric Tare, son of Julika Prifti and grandson of Naum and Rina Prifti.

- **If you have any news about friends, family or the community and you would like to share with our Parish Community, Please contact Linda Foundos.**

HELENA P. LIOLIN
Grande Dame in the Albanian Community
1917 - 2007



Helena Liolin with her late husband, Evans, was among the key founders of our St. Nicholas Church. She touched the lives of so many. She used her life to the fullest accomplishing so much, leaving behind an amazing legacy. She is loved, respected and admired by multitudes. The Albanian-American community occupied her life, and the Orthodox church was its heart. She encouraged us to embrace our culture and traditions. Helena is survived by her three sons and their families: Bishop Nikon, Very Reverend Arthur Liolin and his wife Margaret of Milton, MA; James Liolin and his wife Christina of Danbury, CT; eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. For all of us who knew her, she will forever remain in our hearts. Following is an article from the Radius Magazine which highlights Helena's life:

Helena P. Liolin of Milton, MA formerly of Garden City, NY and Danbury, CT was born and bred in Worcester. Helena (*nee* Peter / Shoqo) distinguished herself as an accomplished singer of light opera after pursuing studies in voice at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music. In the 1930's, her concerts at the Worcester Auditorium received raving reviews by music critics. The Worcester Telegram had given her the sobriquet: "The Albanian Nightingale," referring to her ancestral origins and her lyrical renditions of European choral music. As a founding member of the "Golden Strings" ensemble, she had helped to awaken an appreciation for Balkan music before it became fashionable decades later. As a coloratura soprano, her recordings of Verdi, Puccini, Gilbert & Sullivan as well as popular favorites were aired on weekly radio programs: Worcester's "Albanian Songs and Melodies," Boston's "Voice of Albania" as well ethnic programs in Philadelphia and Detroit right through the 1990s.

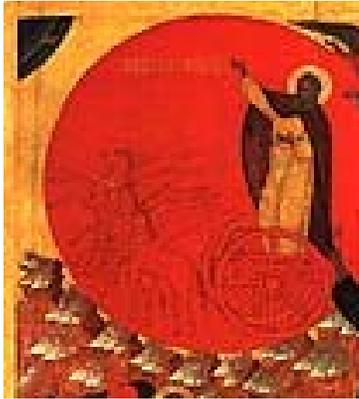
In 1941, following her marriage to Evans J. Liolin of Long Island, NY, her career turned to applying her musical talents and energies in numerous ways as a long-time activist in New York's Albanian community, participating in fraternal, patriotic and cultural organizations. She organized the first choir for Saint Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in Manhattan and later in Jamaica Estates, L.I., which she directed for over thirty years. Major highlights for all who were involved included the choral concerts at Columbia University. As consummate hosts, their home on Long Island was notably ecumenical in spirit and was visited by diplomats and bishops, dissidents and exiles, scholars and compatriots: a broad spectrum of a community that embraced many political and religious persuasions. Most notable was the exchange visits of parishioners on the given feast day of saints, a custom when a family member is feted with an open house on their "name day." Helena and her late husband also helped to establish the Theological Student Fund of the Albanian Archdiocese, and as Fr. Stephen Sinari noted: "in this way they had many sons."

Known for her engaging personality, charm and forthright manner, she was an advocate of human rights and religious freedom both here and abroad, as well as advancing the Albanian identity and its culture in the U.S. Ever active in her later years, she served as an interpreter in the N.Y. judicial system, while also operating a music studio, where she taught over 100 young students during the 1950's and 60's.

May her memory be eternal. I Perjetshim Kujtimi.

July and August Major Feast days

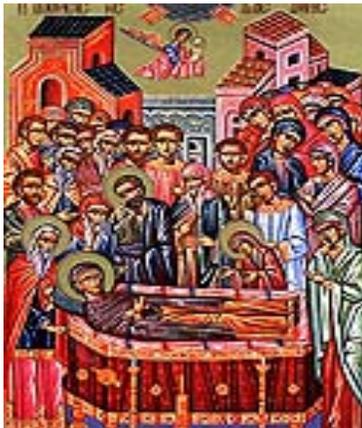
The Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah Commemorated on July 20



The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets in the Old Testament. The name Elijah (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety. During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land. After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the

earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God. The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell.

Dormition of the Righteous Anna, the Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos Commemorated on July 25

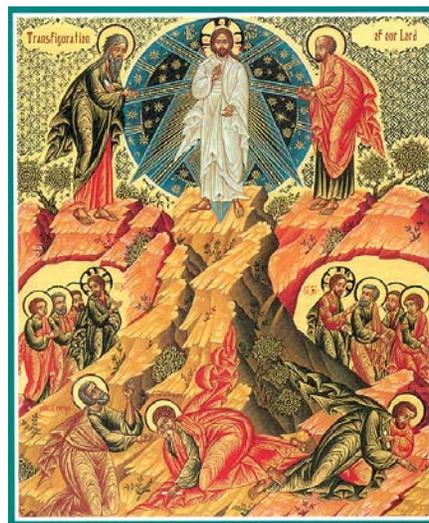


Saint Anna was the daughter of the priest Matthan and his wife Mary. She was of the tribe of Levi and the lineage of Aaron. According to Tradition, she died peacefully in Jerusalem at age 79, before the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos.

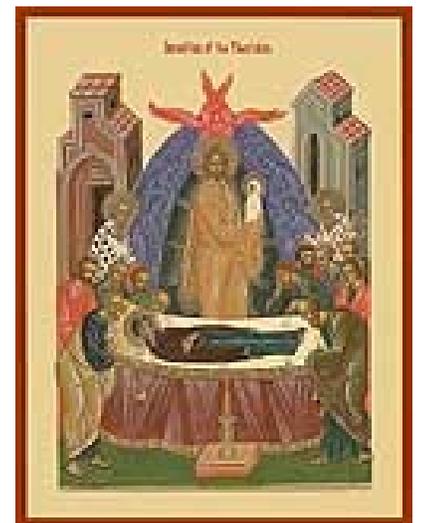
During the reign of St Justinian the Emperor (527-565), a church was built in her honor at Deutera. Emperor Justinian II (685-695; 705-711) restored her church, since St Anna had appeared to his pregnant wife. It was at this time that her body and maphorion (veil) were transferred to Constantinople.



July 24th
Martyr Christina of Tyre



August 6th
The Transfiguration of Our
Lord God and Savior Jesus



August 15th
The Falling-asleep (Dormition
or Assumption) of the Most-
Holy Theotokos

Major Church Activities and Events

Meetings:

- Mon July 9: Parish Council Meeting 7 pm
- Mon Aug 13: Parish Council Meeting 7 pm
- Mon Sept 10: Parish Council Meeting 7 pm

Sunday School:

- Sun July-Aug: One Room School House
- Sun Aug 26: Sunday School Pool Party

Feast Days:

See Page 7 for
Major July and August Feast Days

Memorials:

See Page 4 for Specific Memorials

**NOTE: TIME CHANGE for SUMMER SUNDAY LITURGY
From JULY 1 thru SEPT 2, START at 9:30 AM**

**Ushers' Schedule
for Sunday Services**

- July 1: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- July 8: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- July 15: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos
- July 22: Lou Foundos / Robert Kora
- July 29: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- Aug 5: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka
- Aug 12: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavlo
- Aug 19: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- Aug 26: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- Sept 2: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

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Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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



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