

# 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,

Until Ascension Day on June 5th, we say Christ is Risen! Krishti U Ngjall! I am thankful to all who worked hard to make our Holy Week and Pascha Services meaningful, beautiful and good. Year after year, we add layer to layer of our experience of the Heart of our Faith found in the experience of Holy Week and Pascha. This year I am especially thankful for Reader Nathan's gift of reading and the Board's decision to invest in Nathan's ministry, and for the wonderful Retreat offered by Deacon Nicholas and Charlene Garklavs and Reader Nathan for youth and for adults, which was held the week after Pascha, on St. Thomas Sunday. About 20 youth and adults attended, and were taught how to chant, to sing and to serve in an Orthodox worship service. Many thanks to Donna Oswald for organizing participation and food (Donna & I are planning another retreat for adults and youth to come to Covenant House on a Sunday after Liturgy). Many of the

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participants signed up to read in the Liturgy, so we look forward to seeing new faces reading the Epistle. We will continue to build on this Retreat: after Sunday, June 1st, when the children will have Sunday School graduation, Reader Nathan will offer a one room school house for the children, who will continue to learn to chant, sing, serve and also be educated about the Christian Faith. I will meet with the children who come every other Sunday after Liturgy beginning June 8th, and will read passages from the

**Please see Pastor's Message on page 3**

## President's Message

By Bill Peters

June is upon us again and our thoughts typically go to summer activities and vacations. At St. Nicholas Church, we greet June with Sunday School Graduation and our Annual Picnic.

As you can see on page 3, our Building Expansion Project is moving ahead. Fundraising is continuing and this month we are starting to reach out beyond the Parish to ask the friends of St. Nicholas in the Albanian Community to help us with our Project by making a donation. Of course, Parishioners who have not yet made a financial commitment should do so to support our Church. We expect to begin construction work in August.

Looking ahead, we will continue celebrating the Albanian Archdiocese Centennial in Boston with Church

Services, a Banquet and other activities during the weekend of September 27th–28th. A Souvenir of this 100th Year Celebration will be a video on DVD that includes a history of the Archdiocese, scenes in Albania and events leading up to the present. A preliminary version of the video will be shown in our Fellowship Hall during coffee hour on Sundays, June 8th, 22nd and 29th.

Finally, as described in the May issue of The Orthodox Post, Missionary work in Albania continues through efforts of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Anastasia Pamela Barksdale is a missionary who just left the USA to work in Albania.

**To support her efforts in Albania, we will take up a  
Special Collection as well as seek donations on  
Sunday, June 1st.**

## Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

Well.....here comes summer again. The Daughters have been a little quiet lately although we did take care of all the Pashcha activities, flowers, pancake breakfast, memorials, etc. But just as with our own homes, there are always things that need attention but get ignored. We will soon begin our church expansion which will greatly improve and expand our facilities. We should look forward to this physical growth and make it a spiritual and congregational growth as well. We should have a vibrant and lively community. It can only be that if **WE** make it that!! And I believe we should pledge to do just that. For our community, especially our children in today's society, it is of the utmost importance that along with family, they have a strong, solid church foundation. It means so much in their development in this fast-changing world.

Someone suggested to me that we have Albanian dance lessons for the youth. What a great idea! This idea and so many others need YOU to make them happen. We have much to be proud of. As you enjoy your summer, think about starting anew in the fall. We will welcome your energy and ideas.

Congratulations to all the graduates. We wish you much success as you move on. Have a great summer. Please contact me if you have any news you'd like to share.

*"Words of Wisdom" . . .*

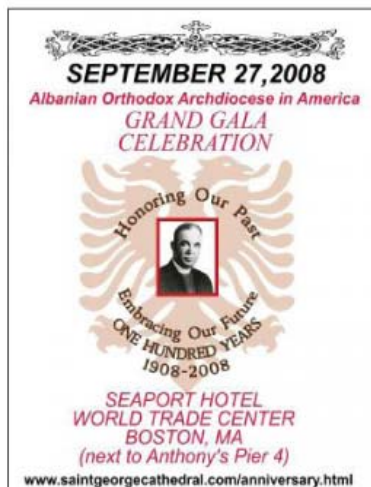
*Happiness is a journey, not a destination.*

*Life is what happens while you are making plans.*

*Today is the first day of the rest of your life.*

*You build on people's strengths. If you only find fault, you destroy.*

**ALBANIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
CENTENNIAL  
VIDEO SHOWING  
Sundays, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
during Coffee Hour  
History & Events**



## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Qershor 2008

Kete muaj po japim nje pjese nga permbledhja "Mbi Ikonat" e Gaqo Bazes dhe nje pjese nga vjersha "Moisiu ne Mal" e Fan Nolit:

"Mbi Ikonat" Gaqo Baze

Ç'jane ikonat?

...Ikonat janë piktura të Krishtit, Shën Marisë, Shënjtoreve si dhe aspekte të ndryshme nga ngjarjet e marra nga "Shkrimi i Shenjtë", si "Darka mistike", "Pagëzimi i Jezujt" etj.

Ato janë bërë me bojra vaji ose jo, në dru ose tellaro. Mund të jenë mozaik, fildisht ose material tjetër; mundet të jenë murale (afreske). Nëpërmjet ikonës ne shprehim dashurinë, respektin e nderimin q'u bëhet atyre, por jo vetë ikonës. Kur besimtari përulet e puth ikonën, ai e kryen këtë veprim për nderimin ndaj atyre që janë paraqitur aty, por jo vetë ikonës si material e punim.

...Nëpërmjet ikonave ne mundemi të krijojmë një atmosferë shpirtërore ku ne mund të jetojmë një qetësi e shpresë shpirtërore. Lutja orthodoxe është një proces kompleks që përfshin njëkohësisht mendjen, trupin e shpirtin. Sa më shumë shqisa te marrin pjesë në një proces, aq më fuqishme është efekti. Duke u lutur me gojë, duke puthur ikonat, duke bërë me duart kryqin, duke parë ikonat ne komunikojme më thellë me Zotin.

...Një teolog pohon: "Ikonat janë libra të hapura që na kujtojnë Perëndinë. Ikonat janë një mjet për të na çelur shtigje, për të na lidhur e forcuar besimin". Çfarë tjetër është ikona? Veçse një "Ungjill me figura". Po ashtu duke hyrë në kishë, le të shikojmë me vërejtje ikonat, afresket dhe do të mësojmë shumë nga ngjarjet e Ungjillit.

"Moisiu ne Mal" botuar ne gazeten "Liria Kombetare" me 27 Janar 1930

...Kryeprofetit dita i ngryset  
She shpirtkëputur përdhe përmbysset  
Me lot në sy, me zemër të ngrirë  
I lyp mëshirë.

Ja Nazareti, ja Bethlehemi,  
Lum' i Jordanit, Jeruzalemi,  
Mal' i Sionës, Bethsaidaja,  
Dhe Golgothaja!

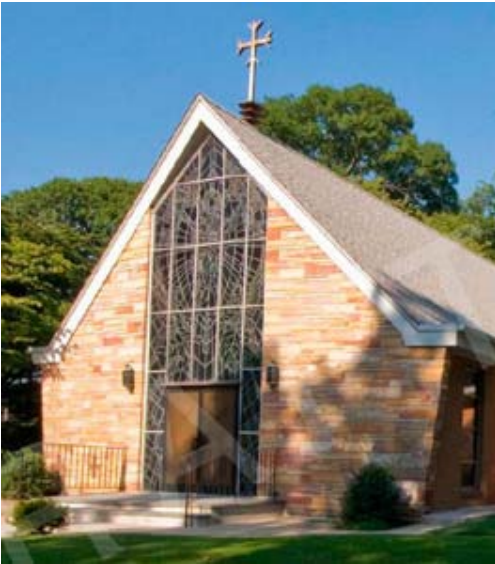
Pse kaqë gjatë, Zot, m'arratise,  
Pse më përplase, më përpëlisë,  
Pse shpresën dyzet vjet ma ushqeve,  
Dhe sot ma preve?

Sheh gasn' e pritme për djalërinë  
Dhe shkretëtirën për pleqërinë,  
Atje sa bukur, këtu sa zi,  
O Moisi!

"Nëm Dhen' e Lirë! Zot ku ma ke?"  
"Shiko, i tha, dhe ja ku e pe!"  
Sëlargu Zoti ia pasqyron,  
Dhe e shikon.

Këtej ka dimrin, andej pranverën,  
Kërkon Parajsën, vdes në Skëtërrën;  
Ajme, sa vrer, sa keq e sa zor,  
Liberator!

## CHURCH EXPANSION MOVING AHEAD



It has been quiet for the last couple months while we explored some great ideas from one of our parishioners to preserve the present look of the Church and build on the back of the Church over or under the parking lot. Well, build we will, and it will be under the parking lot and plans have been finalized.

In taking in consideration the limitations of our plot, permitting issues with neighbors and cost to heat and cool the space, we have decided to build the extra space for the classrooms and storage directly in back of the Fellowship Hall. This means we will build directly under our parking lot and then reinstate the parking lot as it is presently. This approach will give us about forty percent more space than our previous plans. It has several other advantages, it will increase the size of our Fellowship Hall, the Ladies restroom won't be downsized, will keep the classrooms close to where the parents are and everything being on one level makes it easier all around. Of course elevator and all other things will be included as in the original plans.

The upstairs expansion in the Church for adding the balcony over the entrance is as previously planned and we still hope to do all the other improvements, a/c, kitchen, men's bathroom and other sprucing up to bring St Nicholas Church up to date to serve our present and future needs.

We will be submitting our drawings for approval in late June and hopefully we can start construction by August 1. This means completion later this year.

We are also making a new release in the greater metropolitan area to the Albanian Community and our friends to ask them to help us in this Church Expansion project to better serve all.

### **Pastor's Message – continued from Page 1**

Bible to them (if you wish to follow along, I am reading from The Children's Study Bible [see me to see a copy or Tina Peters on how to order]). On every other Sunday, (June 15th), I am also meeting with two families who are interested in baptisms to discuss some basics of Christianity every Christian ought to know. Anyone who wishes may join. Finally, I will be using this Summer Schedule time to do visitations. Mary Pillary, Georgina Ligor, Dr. Sheti, Ellen Gradt and Rosalie Zacharias are first on my list. The House Blessings, Paschal weeks, new ministries at St. Nicholas, and added responsibilities at my other job (unfortunately, the cost of living continues to rise) have kept me from this important task, and I ask for your patience as I fulfill this. Because of the late time of Pascha and the other events mentioned above, we will not be having an adult study in the normal "Post-Pascha/Pre-Summer" period. Persons interested in Study may attend the Basics class I offer every other week after Liturgy, or simply reach out to me via phone or email.

Your friend, Fr. David

## Community News

By Linda Foundos

- George Beno is moving up the educational ladder. Congratulations to George who graduated from 6<sup>th</sup> grade and will be attending Jr. High School in New Hyde Park in the fall. George was a drummer in his school band. One of his major interests is ancient history. His parents Beti and Izzi, grandparents Diana and Dhimiter Beno, family and friends are very proud of him. Good job, George! Good luck to you!!
- A star student, Iris Mile, graduated from East Meadow High School. Iris was an all-around strong student and participated in a number of extracurricular activities. This fall, Iris will be attending Boston University in a pre-med program. Her parents, Irma & Ardian Mile, grandmother Elsa, sister Angela, family and friends are very proud of Iris. We wish her well as she takes another major step in life. You go girl!!
- We wish Mario (Klaudio) Luka all the best and safe keeping as he leaves for Japan with the U.S. Navy on the aircraft carrier, the George Washington, to continue his naval service. Mario has excelled in all that he has done and ranks high in his class. He is pursuing the field of nuclear engineering. Agathia & Ilia, family and friends are proud of him for so bravely serving his country. Our sincere thanks to Mario and all those that serve with him.
- Congratulations to Ilir Fundo who graduated with honors from Rutgers University with an MBA degree. Your family and friends are very proud of your wonderful accomplishment. Best of luck to you as you continue in your career. Bravo!
- We can now call Laura Papalexis, Nurse Laura!!!! Kudos are in order as she graduated from University of Connecticut School of Nursing. Barbara and Mark, Alison and Greg are very proud of her dedication and success. Any patient will automatically feel better having Laura's smiling face and caring attention! Good for you, Laura! All the Best.
- Kudos to Kleona Voxhilla who graduated from Fordham University. Her parents Nora & Niko, and family are very proud of her accomplishment. We wish her much success and happiness.
- Dr. & Mrs. Vasil Cakuli have the great joy of announcing the engagement of their daughter, Eklea, to Almed Sejati. Almed is a civil engineer and is currently working with Gannett Fleming, Inc. in Manhattan. Eklea recently graduated from Columbia University Dental School and will continue at Columbia for a one-year residency in general dentistry. Their families are very happy for them and so proud of them. Our best wishes for much happiness together.
- Wedding bells were ringing on May 18<sup>th</sup> for Alan Dalaku and Victoria Revere. Alan, the nephew of Gloria Sawyer, was a former parishioner at St. Nicholas. The happy couple was married at the Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in New Haven, CT. A reception for family and friends was held at Tony and Lucille's Little Italy Restaurant in New Haven. Alan's parents, Ted Dalaku and Joanne Roller, Aunt Gloria and family are delighted and wish Alan and Victoria much happiness in their marriage.
- The Jones/Jance family has great, exciting news to share regarding the health report on little Elizabeth. In her short time on this earth, her very complicated medical needs have had her in and out of the hospital. Happily, though, each stay at home is growing longer and longer. We pray for her and all her family that very soon will come the day that she will be home permanently. She has a strong spirit, is fighting hard and has so many who send their love and prayers for her recovery.
- The Oswald's have a new address! Best wishes to Jim, Donna, Kim, Daniel and Alex in their new home. May you enjoy making many wonderful memories there.

**CHILDREN'S TIME**  
**READING THE BIBLE WITH**  
**FR. DAVID**  
**Begins June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Every other Sunday  
 11:45 a.m. to noon



## Mothers' Day Celebration

The St. Nicholas Parish tradition of providing flowers to the Ladies (Mothers, Grandmothers and Future Mothers) and having the men serve them Breakfast continued and was very successful. The photos below show the Ladies enjoying their Special Day and the men in the kitchen who helped prepare the Breakfast!



e of joy has arriv



**St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church**

**PICNIC**

**Sunday, June 15th**  
**Hempstead Lake State Park**  
**Exit #18 on the Southern State Pkwy**  
**11:30 a.m. until dark**

## Major Church Activities and Events

- Sun, June 1: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha (blind Man),  
Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.;  
Memorial for Helen Liolin – 1 Year;  
Sunday School Graduation
- Wed, June 4: Vespereal Liturgy, 7 p.m. for the  
Ascension of the Lord
- Sun, June 8: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha, Divine Liturgy  
at 10 a.m.; One Room Sunday Class  
with Reader Nathan; Fr. David's Time  
with Children. Archdiocese Video!
- Sun, June 15: Holy Pentecost, Divine Liturgy at  
9:30 a.m.; Annual Picnic at  
Hempstead Park after Liturgy
- Sun, June 22: Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.; One Room  
Class with Reader Nathan; Basics Class  
with Fr. David. Archdiocese Video!
- Sun, June 29: Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m  
Archdiocese Video!

### Children's One Room School House:

11:45 – 12 Noon: Every Sunday

Albanian Class (learning prayers and hymns in  
Albanian with Adelina Llupa) – Every other week  
11:45 – 12 Noon

## Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services Lista e shërbimit të dielave në kishë

- June 01: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- June 08: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- June 15: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- June 22: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- June 29: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- July 06: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.stnicholasalbanian.org](http://www.stnicholasalbanian.org)

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