

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

By Father Andrew Jarmus

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

KRISHTI U NGJALL! VERTET U NGJALL!

KHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is with joy and gratitude to God that I write this first message as pastor of St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church. All of life is a journey -- a journey that begins in this world and is fulfilled in the world to come -- the ultimate goal being the Kingdom of God. Though we might have a sense of the general direction that our life is taking, the specific points along the way are known only to God Himself. However, the Lord does give us hints from time to time about what is to come; although it is often only when we look back that these things become clear.

When Matushka Kristi and I were engaged and planning our wedding, we asked a friend to hand carve two matrimonial icons for us, one of Christ and the other of the Theotokos. These icons are very dear to us and are the center of our family's prayer corner. The Theotokos icon that we picked for our friend to use as a prototype when he carved our icons was a miracle-working, weeping icon from

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an Orthodox parish in Chicago. About a month ago, over 20 years later, I was standing near our prayer corner, reflecting on beginning this new assignment at St. Nicholas Church. Suddenly it dawned on me; the original, wonder-working icon of the Theotokos that our icon was a reproduction of was found in an Albanian Orthodox church. We have had a direct connection to Albanian Orthodoxy in our home since the day that we were married and only now does its significance become clear. Things like this serve to remind us that God is, in fact, very involved in our lives.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches His disciples not to become preoccupied with earthly needs. Instead, He tells them, "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). The "all these things" that will be "added to us" when we put "the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" first are our earthly needs. God does not give us everything we want in life, but He assures us that we will never lack what we truly need.

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President's Message

By Bill Peters

WELCOME

FR. ANDREW AND FAMILY!!!!!!



Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

Krishti U Ngall! Our Paschal services and celebrations were beautiful and spiritually moving. The Daughters Eli Troja, Ellen Gradt, Rosalie Zacharias, Joanne Heiser, Pauline Logore, Adriana Topore and Irma Mile, spearheaded by Tina Peters, did a beautiful job decorating the Epitaphi. Thank you to Beti & Izzi Tsamblakos for obtaining the flowers for us. Our farewell brunch for our Dear Fr. David and his wonderful family was great. It was emotional with a lot of love to go around. The Fox family will certainly be missed; but we wish them all the best. Tina Peters outdid herself with her tremendous catering skills. A fabulous brunch was enjoyed by all. Thanks so much to all that helped put this event together with shopping, food preparation, serving and cleaning up Adelina & Roland Llupa, Albana, Thea & Nasi Pavlo, Rosalie Zacharias, Irma Mile, Gloria Sawyer, Jim Oswald, Tina Korra, Barbara & Mark Papalexis, Adriana & Andrea Topore and others as well.

Now we look forward to a new chapter in the life of our St. Nicholas community and welcome Fr. Andrew Jarmus and his family. Each relationship is "special" in its own way; and each one brings a new opportunity to learn, to grow and to leave an imprint on our lives.

We wish all the women a very Happy Mothers' Day! All women that serve in this capacity play a vital role in the lives of children, families and society in general. Women love, nurture, educate, encourage, transport, nurse back to health, feed, clothe, entertain, pass on traditions and so much more. A mother really is an incredible creature, so be good to us and to yourselves!

Quiche Lorraine ala Tina

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients:

1-1/2 cups half & half

4 eggs, beaten

1/8 tsp. salt & dash pepper

2 tbsp. flour

2 cups shredded cheese

(swiss, cheddar, colby, havarti, your choice)

8 slices bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled or ham cut up into small cubes

1 9" unbaked deep dish pastry shell

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine half & half, eggs and seasonings. In separate bowl, toss cheese with the flour and sprinkle into the unbaked pastry shell. Top with bacon or other meats or vegetables. Then carefully pour egg mixture into the pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees 40-50 minutes, until egg mixture is set and top is golden brown.



KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Maj, 2009

Këtë muaj po japim disa fjalë të urta nga libri i Salomonit, birit të Davidit, mbret i Izraelit.

Qëllimi i fjalëve të urta

I urti do të dëgjojë dhe do të rritë diturinë e tij; njeriu i zgjuar do të përvetesoje këshilla të urta për të kuptuar një fjalë dhe një enigmë, fjalët e të urtëve dhe thëniet e tyre. Frika e Zotit është fillimi i njohjes, por njerzit e pamënd përçmojnë diturinë dhe arsimin.

Nxitje që u drejtohen të rinjve:

Bindju prindërve

Dëgjo, o biri im mësimet e atit tënd dhe mos i lër pas dore mësimet e nënës sate, sepse janë një nur që zbukuron kokën tënde dhe një stoli në qafën tënde.

Shmangu nga shoqëria e keqe

Biri im, në qoftë se mëkatarët duan të të mashtrojnë, mos prano; në qoftë se thonë: "Eja me ne, kemi ngritur një pritë për të derdhur gjak; i ngritëm gracka të pafajmit pa ndonjë shkak, le t'i kapërdimë të gjallë ashtu si Sheoli, tërësisht si ata që zbresin në gropë; ne do gjejmë lloj-lloj pasurish të çmueshme; do t'i mbushim shtëpitë tona me plaçka; ti do t'a hedhësh në short pjesën tënde me ne, dhe të gjithë ne do të kemi një qese të vetme", biri im, mos shko me ta në po atë rrugë, ndale hapin nga shtegu i tyre, sepse këmbët e tyre turren drejt së keqes dhe ata nxitojnë të derdhin gjak. Shtrihet më kot rrjeta përpara çdo lloj zogu, këta kurdisin prita kundër gjakut të vet dhe ngrenë kurthe kundër vetë jetës së tyre. Të tilla janë rrugët e çdo njeriu të etur për pasuri; ajo ia heq jetën atyre që e kanë.

Ruaje zembrën tënde

Ruaje zembrën tënde me shumë kujdes, sepse nga ajo dalin burimet e jetës. Hiq dorë nga e folura me hile dhe largo prej teje buzët e çoroditura. Sytë e tu le të shohin drejt dhe qepallat e tua të synojnë para. Sheshoje shtegun e këmbëve të tua, dhe të gjitha rrugët e tua qofshin të caktuara mirë. Mos u shmang as në të djathtë, as në të majtë; largoju nga e keqja.

Gjëra të neveritshme për Zotin

Zoti i urren këto gjashtë gjëra, madje shtatë janë të neveritshme për të; sytë tinzarë, gjuhë gënjeshtare, duar që derdhin gjak të pafajshëm, zemra që kurdisin plane të këqija, këmbë që turren shpejt drejt së keqes, dëshmitarët e rremë që thonë gënjeshtër dhe ata që shtien grindje midis vëllezërve.

Pascha Celebration

Our St. Nicholas Community celebrated Holy Week and Pascha with large crowds in attendance for the major services. Below are photos showing the Daughters with the Epitaphi and Good Friday services.



Farewell Brunch for Fr. David and Family

On Sunday, April 26th, Fr. David served his last Sunday Liturgy as our Pastor. He is transferring to another Church in New Jersey. The Daughters of St. Nicholas and the Parish provided a Special Farewell Brunch to honor Fr. David and his Family. The whole Family has been active in the life of the Church for the past 5 years. Kerri has worked with the Sunday School and the children (Hurley, Max, Paris and Niko) have participated in Sunday School and the boys have served as Alter Boys. On behalf of the Church, gifts were presented by Bill Peters & Linda Foundos to the Family as a "Thank You" and as a "Remembrance" of St. Nicholas Parish. Fr. David and Kerri each received a St. Nicholas Cross. Fr. David also received a painted Icon of St. Nicholas. Each child received a religious gift and a play gift.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

When we give our lives to Christ, He becomes our guide and our pilot. He will take us in life where He knows that we need to go. And now, our Lord has seen fit that we should come together. We can be sure then that each one of us needs this moment and that each of us needs the other, pastor and congregation. We can also be sure that this relationship -- if we are good stewards of it -- will be for the glory of God and the salvation of our souls. May the Lord grant that this be so.

Now, let me move on to a couple of initial "house-keeping" matters. In addition to my pastoral duties at St. Nicholas Church, I am also working at the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America as our Church's Director of Ministries and Communications. My office hours at the OCA Chancery are Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon, and Thursdays and Fridays from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. At St. Nicholas, in addition to leading services on weekends and holy days, I will be available for routine pastoral duties every day except Tuesdays -- for example, visitations, study groups, working with youth and children. Although my shared status at the parish will have some limits on my availability for routine pastoral work, in emergency situations I am available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to the parish phone number, you can call (or text) me on my cell phone at 516-633-4353. I can also be reached at home -- 516-558-7758, or at my chancery number -- 516-922-0550, ext. 134. You can also send me an email at ajarmus@gmail.com.

Since becoming a priest over 18 years ago, an important part of my ministry has been education. God does not expect blind faith from us. It is as we learn more about our Church's beliefs and practices that their true beauty and potential life-changing significance become clear. This is a lesson I myself learned from personal experience. I love to teach, children, youth, adults -- whether through study groups, sermons, or informal discussions -- and I am always looking for creative new ways to spread the word about the Good News Jesus Christ has given us.

I am also a self-confessed technophile. Modern technology, especially communications technology, offers us many opportunities for staying in touch with each other. You can expect to hear from me via email, on our web site, through blogging, and even (if, God willing, we can make it happen) on podcasts.

Technology, though, is only a tool. I believe that true relationships need personal interaction to develop meaningful, lasting bonds. Jesus says that where ever two or three gather in His name, He is there in the midst of them. I will strive to visit with each of our parishioners over the course of the year, at least once. I am always open to invitations... and don't be surprised if I invite myself for a coffee with you.

In my pastoral visits, I will devote special attention to our shut-ins and those in hospital. However, for this -- especially when it comes to those in hospital -- I need your help. If there is someone who you feel would like or could use a visit, please let me know. Don't assume that I know about such a person; I would rather hear about the same person from three or four others than not hear about him or her at all.

There are other things that I hope to work on at the parish. Working with children and youth is very important and it requires its own special approach -- several approaches, really, different for kids, teens and young adults. Again, creativity is key to making the learning engaging, dynamic and edifying. The goal is not only to fill the head with knowledge about God, but to fill the heart with love for God.

There is much that we need to do, and even more that we can do. To honor this wonderful opportunity that our Risen Lord gives us as He brings us together, let us work in a spirit of mutual love, respect and cooperation. In all things, let us put first "the Kingdom of God and its righteousness." By maintaining our values in proper order, keeping Christ and His Gospel first in all things, the Lord will honor our efforts by giving us much fruit. Not everything that we initiate will be of equal success. But all that does happen, and the degree to which it works out, will be gifts from God and the result of our dedicated team work serving Him.

My family and I are all very excited to now be part of the St. Nicholas parish family. I look forward to getting to know you all and to the journey that we are now beginning. May it draw us ever closer to Him who has "risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."

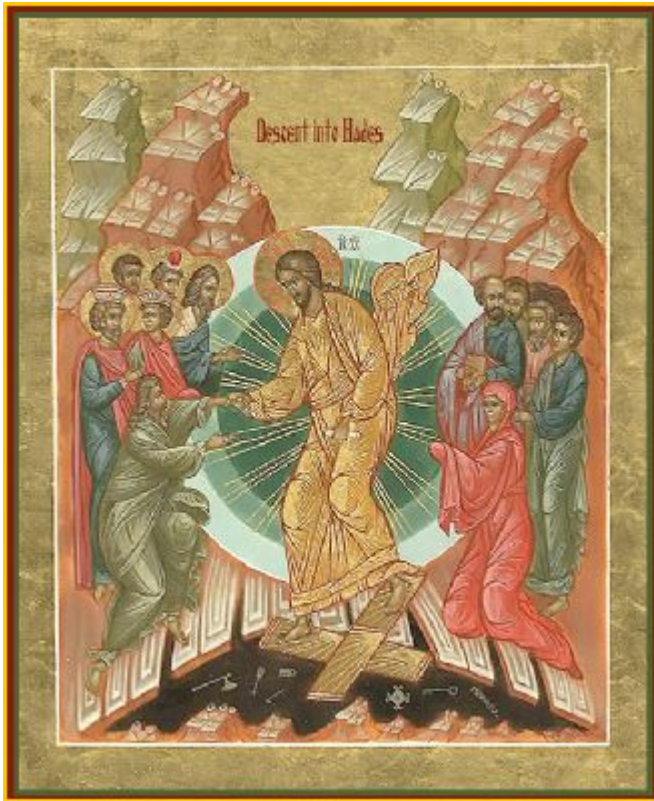
Blessings,
Fr. Andrew

THIS MONTH'S MAJOR FEAST DAYS

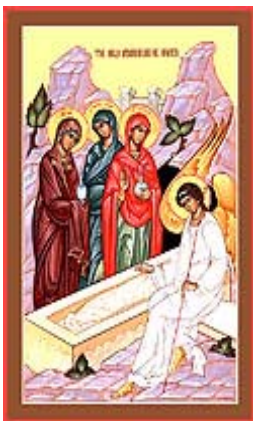
Leavetaking of Pascha **Commemorated on May 27th**

On Wednesday of the sixth week of Pascha, we celebrate the Leavetaking of the Feast. While most Feasts have their Leavetaking on the eighth day, Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, has its Leavetaking on the thirty-ninth day. The fortieth day is the Feast of the Lord's Ascension, which marks the end of the Lord's physical presence on earth. He does not abandon us, however. He has promised to be with us always, even until the end of the age. As we sing in the Kontakion for Ascension, "Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you." There is a similar thought expressed in the Troparion for the Dormition: "In falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos."

The services today are celebrated just as on the day of Pascha itself. The daily readings from Holy Scripture, of course, will differ. After the Dismissal at Liturgy, the paschal hymns are no longer sung. The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said or sung until Pentecost. The Winding Sheet (Plaschanitsa) is taken from the altar and is put in its proper place. Even though today is a Wednesday, fish, wine, and oil are permitted.



SUNDAYS IN THE MONTH OF MAY



The Holy Myrr-bearing Women with the Noble Joseph

May 03



The Paralytic

May 10



The Samaritan Woman

May 17



The Blindman

May 24



Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

May 31

Major Church Activities and Events

Sun, May 3: 10 am Divine Liturgy
"Welcome Fr. Andrew Jarmus, our new Priest"

Sun, May 10: 10 am, Divine Liturgy
"Mothers' Day Celebration"

Mon, May 11: Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Sun, May 17: 10 am, Divine Liturgy
"Building Expansion Ground Breaking Service"

Sun, May 24: 10 am, Divine Liturgy

Sun, May 31: 10 am, Divine Liturgy

Sun, June 21: 9:30 am, Divine Liturgy
followed by
Church Annual Picnic at
Hempstead Lake State Park
Start 11:30 am

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

May 03: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka

May 10: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

May 17: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile

May 24: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo

May 31: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori

June 7: Andrea Kutali / John Jance

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