

THE ORTHODOX POST

September 2010

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

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President's Message

by Bill Peters

Our new church year, is an especially exciting time since we begin it with a new Pastor. Having a full-time Priest will help the Parish Community do the religious and laity work of the Church more effectively.

In September, Sunday School will begin again and it is important for all parents to register and bring their children to weekly classes. Sunday School has new expanded classrooms and fine teachers to help provide our children a religious education.

On September 24-25, we will participate in the Albanian Archdiocese Annual Assembly with the other Albanian Churches. On October 23, we will hold a major Dinner-Dance in our newly Expanded Fellowship Hall. November 13 & 14, the Daughters of St. Nicholas will run their Flea Market & Bake Sale. Support it with your rummage, bake goods and time.

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Of course, there will be many religious activities and services to attend. Please participate in all the Church activities.

The Parish needs your active involvement!!!!

The Ordination of Fr. Nathan Preston



On Sunday, August 29th, Bishop Nikon and visiting Clergy celebrated Liturgy and performed the service Ordaining Dn. Nathan Preston into the Holy Priesthood. Fr. Nathan will now assume the full Pastor duties of our St. Nicholas Parish.

More than one hundred parishioners and friends of the Church witnessed the ceremonies and participated in a Luncheon Reception in our newly expanded Fellowship Hall. Visiting Clergy included the Chancellor of the OCA, Fr. Alexander Garklavs, Fr. David Mezynski, Deacon Nicholas Garklavs and Deacon Gregory Hatrak. Our own Bill Nasi, Daniel Oswald and Alex Oswald also participated in the ceremonies. Also attending was Fr. Nathan's dad, Jim Preston, as well as several personal friends.

Fr. Nathan has been a part of our St. Nicholas Community for more than three years. Initially, he served us as a seminary student, then after graduation as an assistant to the Priest and for the past year as our Deacon. He has spent time in Albania and participated in Albanian Archdiocese activities.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will all get to know him as our Pastor. In his comments to Parishioners, Fr. Nathan thanked everyone for attending the Ordination Ceremonies. Also, he said he is looking forward to working with the Community as our Pastor and asked for everyone's support.

Pastor's Message

by Father Nathan Preston

Hello everyone,

I trust it was a most productive and pleasant summer for all. As you are no doubt aware, it has been a time of transition for our parish community, and we have found ourselves the host of many kind priests who have generously come to our aid during this period of want. Extending hospitality to them and seeing the warmth with which they have served should truly be an inspiration. With their presence we see ourselves as members of that great and truly catholic Church that extends beyond the walls of our own St. Nicholas. I hope we have learned, too, to recognize how welcoming a place, how warm and hospitable, we can be. We should never fail to practice these virtues even as we begin (I hope) to settle into more regular and steady Church life.

Since this is the first monthly Post going out to you after my ordination, I will take a moment to sidestep what should come next. It is customary for the new priest to begin his ministry with an introduction. This may be a little late and slightly repetitive for me as I have been with you now for some years in different capacities. I would, however, like to impose a task upon you. Since any autobiographical account is subject to the whims of the author in the information it provides, I would like next month to write this column in the form of an interview. I would like you to provide the questions. I have found that those details I consider relevant are not always the ones that pique everybody's interest, so I challenge you to ply me with inquiries during this coming month. You and I may both learn something about me in the answers. No question is too insignificant.

I have one issue of a practical nature. When you come forward for Holy Communion, please say

your name. While I know many of you, I am afraid I do not know all. Not only that but, as I am still just at the beginning of realizing my new role, I fear I could forget even the name of my own mother if she were to arrive just then. So please help me in this way.

Finally, a reflection on liturgy as the Life of the Church. "Liturgy" comes from a Greek word composed of two words crammed together: people (laos) and work (ourgos). It had as its meaning the public work projects of ancient cities—constructing civic centers, providing means for community festivities, and even some charitable components. Though citizens paid their taxes (for these have always been inevitable), liturgy was a social obligation for those with means. In a sense, it was a second set of taxes levied on those who feared to lose public face by their failure to contribute. Because this often involved the funding of religious events and even the holding of religious positions in pagan society, it entered into Christian usage with a twofold meaning. Liturgy is the work of the people; it is also an obligation for those who belong to a community. The Divine Liturgy, celebrated every Sunday and feast day, bears these same principles. The priest alone cannot serve Holy Liturgy. Rather, he is the representative, that one appointed to function on behalf of (not in place or instead of) the people, in preparing to partake of Holy Communion. There must be singers, there must be parishioners, and, above all, there must be prayers in the pews for any service of the Church to be a service, to be our service. In the coming months, I hope to provide some additional reflection on what happens in the Divine Liturgy. If you consider yourself a member of this community, please come. We require you for this common work.

I look forward to your questions this month. I look forward to spending time with you in ways previously impossible. My number is (208) 818-3372 and e-mail is nate.preston@gmail.com.

Consider them yours to use. Thank you.

Fr. Nathan

Daughters Corner

by Linda Foundos

It has been good having Dn. Nathan participating in our community for the past couple years. We have had the opportunity to get to know each other as we prayed and worked together. Now, we welcome him as our new priest! May God bless the newly ordained Fr. Nathan Preston.

We hope you had an enjoyable summer with all its fun activities and spending more time outdoors in the warmth of the sun. Now, we will turn our attention to all the fall events. The Daughters will begin with our "Come to Worship, Stay for Lunch" on Sunday, September 12th. This event has been very well received in the past. We hope you will once again support our fundraiser. Sunday School registration will take place on this same Sunday as well. We look forward to seeing all of you.

A firm date has now been set for our annual **Flea Market/Bake Sale**. It will take place on Saturday & Sunday, **November 13th & 14th**. Please begin to comb through your drawers, closets, cabinets, basement, garage & attic for all those gently used items in good condition that you no longer use, need or want. We hope you will plan to volunteer and get involved! We need your help. This is your church. Be an active part of it. Try it, you'll like it!

Bring Your Child to Sunday School In September



Registration/Enrollment:
Sunday, Sept 12th

School Begins:
Sunday, Sept 26th

Plan now to enroll and bring your child/children to Sunday School when it begins in September.

It is important to arrange for them to attend classes on a regular basis.

Mark your Calendar ! Flea Market & Bake Sale November 13th and 14th



Using our expanded Fellowship Hall, The Daughters will hold its Flea Market and Bake Sale in Saturday and Sunday, November 13th and 14th.

Save up your items to donate in November, so they can be sold to raise funds for the Church. Also, plan on providing Bake Goods to sell.

We need everyone to work together so we can have a very successful fundraising event!!!!

Sunday, September 12th *Come to Worship Stay for Lunch*



Delicious Lunch

lakror, meatballs, greek salad, dessert & coffee/ soda

\$10 per person

Home-baked goods will also be sold

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Shtator, 2010

Këtë muaj po japim pjesën "Pema dhe Frytet" nga Dhjata e Re (Ungjilli sipas Mateut) dhe një pjesë nga libri i June Hunt "Seksi dhe Martesa" mbi komunikimin dhe si e sheh Zoti atë.

Pema dhe Frytet

"...Ose bëjeni mirë pemën dhe ftyti i saj do të jetë i mirë, ose bëjeni të keqe pemën dhe fryti i saj do të jetë i keq; sepse pema njihet nga fryti.

O pjellë nepërkash! Si mund të flisni mirë , kur jeni të këqij? Sepse c'ka zemra qet goja. Njeriu i mirë nga thesari i mirë i zemrës nxjerr gjëra të mira; por njeriu i keq nxjerr gjëra të këqija nga thesari i tij i keq. Por unë po ju them se ditën e gjyqit njerzit do të japin llogari për cdo fjalë të keqe që kanë thënë. Sepse në bazë të fjalëve të tua do të justifikohesh, dhe në bazë të fjalëve të tua do të dënohesh".

"Komunikimi" June Hunt

"A ke ndaluar ndonjëherë të vlerësosh ndikimin e mënyrës tënde të komunikimit? Një fjalë e kujdesshme, inkurajuese, një koment i bërë prerazi, një vështrim i dhemshur...ose një koment i pakujdesshëm, një vërejtje e pasjellshme, një ngërdheshje sarkastike...cfarë u komunikojnë këto në të vërtetë atyre që janë më afër teje? Fjalët e tua kanë potencialin për t'i dhënë jetë ose vdekje zemrës së tjetrit. Fjalët e tua, bashkë me qëndrimet e nënkuptuara, do t'i ndërtojnë të tjerët ose do t'i rrënojnë, do t'i forcojnë në Zotin ose do t'ua dobësojnë besimin.

"Vdekja dhe jeta janë nën pushtetin e gjuhës; ata që e duan do të hanë frytet e saj." (Fjalët e Urta 18:21)

Komunikimi i mirë në marrëdhënie ka këto tre karakteristika bazë: **NGROHTËSI, VËRTETËSI, NJËJTËSIM.**

Ngrohtësia thotë " Ti je i rëndësishëm për mua. Je i vlefshëm për mua. Nuk do përpiqem të të bëj kopje të dytë të vetes sime, përkundrazi, dëshiroj që të realizosh potencialin tënd të plotë."

Vërtetësia thotë: "Nuk përpiqem të të manipuloj dhe as të të nënshtrij ndaj vullnetit tim. Dua që të krijoj një zonë të sigurt, që ti të komunikosh dhe të besosh se do të jem i sinqertë me ty."

Njëjtësimi thotë : "Ndonëse mund të mos e di saktësisht se çfarë po kalon, po përpiqem të kuptoj ndjenjat dhe sfidat që po përball. Do të përpiqem të të kuptoj unë, në vënd që të pres që ti të më kuptosh mua."

"Dhjetë Urdhërimet" e komunikimit të Perëndishëm
Fjalët e tua duhet të jenë të **SINQERTA, TË KENAQSHME PËR PERËNDINË, TË JAPIN JETË, INKURAJUESE, TË HIRSHME, TË URTA, TË PAKTA, NË KOHEN E DUHUR, INVESTIM, TË DASHURA.**

Dinner - Dance

Church Expansion Celebration

Saturday, October 23rd

7 pm til 12 am

In Church New Fellowship Hall



Buffet Dinner & Drinks Dancing
D.J - Bendi Mani

Come & Join the Fun!!!

Admission:

\$60 adults \$30 children 12 & under

*Capacity is limited. Tickets will only be sold in advance
NOT at the door. Reserve your Table Today!!!
Deadline for Buying Tickets is Wednesday, October 13th*

To purchase your tickets, please contact:

Beti Beno, Esq. (917) 596-4738

Linda Foundos (516) 671-8071

Zhani Joanidhi (917) 412-0344

Silvana Kutali (718) 386-5314

Agathia Luka (718) 456-6582

Irma Mile (516) 470-0030

Eli Troja (718) 364-5539

13th ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING

The 13th Golf Outing of St. Nicholas Church on Monday, July 26th was a very successful event. The registration started at 11 A.M. with people checking in, getting some goodies and cigars, buying raffles and generally socializing with each other. Many went to the driving range to warm up and at 1PM the carts were fully loaded for the tee-off signal. As the golfers drove to their respective holes to tee-off, they saw many tee signs from our sponsors and again when they reached the tees. The Golf Course was in excellent shape and challenging and with the new halfway house where we had our lunch between holes.

The next 4 ½ - 5 hours the golfers were hitting their golf balls, trying to compete for various prizes and of course, for the hole-in-one \$10,000 prize. Unfortunately no one was successful, so the prize of \$10,000 went unclaimed. While the golfers were enjoying themselves, some of our ladies were preparing the set-up of the prizes and raffle items in our dining room. At 5:30 P.M. the golfers started rolling in the dining room for the happy hour, where people were drinking and socializing.

At 6:30 P.M. food was served and immediately after we started our program. First Al Foundos welcomed everyone including an honored guest who joined us for golf Ambassador from Montenegro Mijo Drag Vlahovitch as a guest of Nik Nikic. St. Nicholas Committee thanked the golfers and Dinner guests for their support in making the 13th Annual Outing a wonderful success.

The winners of the Golf competition were for the best score the Zef Gelaj foursome and runner-up the Mitch Thomas foursome. The longest drive was by Sajo Deljanin, closest to the pin to Zef Gelaj and closest to the line Stu Schadoff. Following this we had the raffle drawing with many prizes

Once again we want to thank our Albanian-American Community for supporting our Golf Outing which provides some financial support towards reducing our mortgage for the St. Nicholas Church Expansion which is now complete.



COMMUNITY NEWS

by Linda Foundos

- Alexandra Liolin and Michael Kehoe said their "I do's" on Sunday, August 22nd in a lovely ceremony officiated by 2 of Alexandra's uncles, Bishop Nikon and V. Rev. Arthur Liolin. It was a beautiful and joyous celebration. Our sincere congratulations to the happy couple, Alexandra's parents, Christina & James Liolin and their families and the Kehoe family. May their love deepen with each year. May their home be filled with joy. Te Tashegohen!!
- Adelina, Roland & George Llupa had a wonderful, unforgettable & relaxing time in Saranda & Dhermi, a unique small beach near Saranda. Ahhhh, such a good time, and the fresh, daily-caught, wild fish was outstanding along with everything else!
- It's a "PINK" delivery for Era & Ardi Panajoti. A beautiful baby girl, Emilia, was born on July 1st weighing 7 pounds 10 ounces and 20 inches long. We wish many blessings on the Panajoti family. Congratulations to the parents and the very proud, happy grandparents, Liri & Jani Panajoti.
- On Saturday, June 26th, a surprise 75th birthday party was thrown for Mary Nikola by her family. Mary grew up in the St. Nicholas community and was an active member til she married & moved to CT. She is the sister of Gloria Sawyer. Their brother, Ted Dalaku, flew up from Florida to help celebrate. Mary was very surprised and thrilled. Per shume vjet, Mary!
- How sweet it is!! Jenny & Damian Peters celebrated their first wedding anniversary in July with a trip to Cancun, Mexico. The weather was perfect; the activities were great. Creating beautiful memories throughout your lifetime is a wonderful thing to do.
- Irma, Ardian, Iris & Angela Mile, and Xhuljana, Stefan & Vaska Baltadori, had a fabulous time in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic! They enjoyed lots of fun activities including snorkeling (fun looking under the sea), parasailing and kayaking (fun & good exercise, but it kills your back!).
- Tina & Robert Korra had a blast in Cancun, Mexico! Such great fun! Ole!
- Our former priest, Fr. Elijah, and his family returned to New York from Chicago to visit with old friends. Gloria Sawyer had a ball with Gabriel at their shopping excursion to Toys R Us and going to the movies! Gloria Sawyer & Joanne Heiser took the Mueller family out to dinner for a lovely reunion.
- Tina & Bill Peters were delighted to have their granddaughters, Skyler & Sophia from Switzerland come to visit for the summer. The girls enjoyed getting together with family here in NY, and spent several weeks in Florida. There was plenty of action each day with the beach, the pool, the water park, amusement centers and kid-friendly dining out. What fun it was! Grandma & Grandpa sure know how to entertain!!
- Donna, Kim & Daniel Oswald and Matt Foundos had an amazing experience this summer.....home building in Mexico with an Orthodox run program called Project Mexico. How gratifying to work side by side with other Orthodox people from across the country for a good cause. From Mexico, they stopped in to visit Mark, Amy, James & Evan Foundos in San Diego! After this stop, Jim & Alex Oswald met Donna & kids in Colorado for an Oswald family wedding. What a beautiful reunion!! Overall a fabulous trip that managed to do it all!
- Steve Foundos enjoyed a little getaway with friends to South Dakota! Mount Rushmore with the carved presidents was awesome! South Dakoka is truly God's country with its open spaces, being close to nature.... hiking, biking, camping, etc. A fabulous, relaxing change of pace.
- There were several Baptisms celebrated in July and August!!!

Congratulations to the new "Christians" and to all the Parents, Godparents and Grandparents!!!

| <u>Baptized Child</u> | <u>Parents</u> | <u>Godparent(s)</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| o Elma-Elizabeth Filipi | Altin and Blerta Filipi | Vasil and Marina Papa |
| o Violeta Filipi | Altin and Blerta Filipi | Vacileios and Adamantia Mihalopoulos |
| o Melina Filipi | Altin and Blerta Filipi | Andreas and Eleftheria Mihalopoulos |
| o Christina Burgjia | Roland and Dea Burgjia | Agathia Luka |
| o Jennifer Qarri | Stefo and Vojsava Qarri | Vladimir Petto |
| o Sophia Eliana Troja | Erald Troja and Alessandra Santos | Alma Vesho |



**The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross
Commemorated on September 14**

The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117–138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

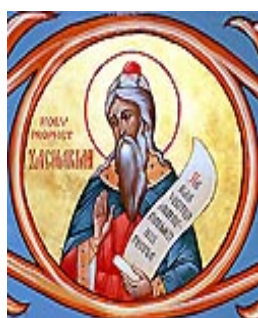
Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306–337) after his victory in the year 312 when he became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen to Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained

Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body. In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found. Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, St Andrew of Crete says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER



**Prophet Zachariah—
Father of St. John
the Baptist
September 05**



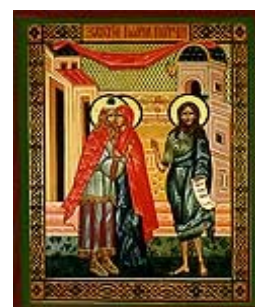
**Nativity of our Holy
Lady the Mother of God
and Ever-Virgin Mary
September 08**



**Most Holy, Righteous
Ancestor of God,
Joachim
September 09**



**Holy, Righteous
Ancestor of God,
Anna
September 09**



**Conception of the
Honorable Glorious Prophet
and Baptist John
September 23**

Major Church Activities and Events

- Sun, Sept 05: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Tues, Sept 07: Nativity of The Theotokos,
Divine Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Sun, Sept 12: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.;
Sunday School Registration;
"Daughters' Special Fundraiser
Lunch in Fellowship Hall"
- Mon, Sept 13: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tues, Sept 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Divine Liturgy, 9 a.m.
- Sun, Sept 19: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Fri – Sat, Sept 24 – 25: Archdiocese
Assembly in Natick, Massachusetts
- Sun, Sept 26: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Sunday School Begins

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

- Sept 05: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- Sept 12: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- Sept 19: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
- Sept 26: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- Oct 03: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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Customer Name
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City, State Zip Code