

THE ORTHODOX POST

April 2010

Volume VI, Issue 4



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 Andrew Jarmus

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In one of the Resurrectional hymns we sing, "Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus." The word "beheld" in Greek, the original language in which this hymn was written, means "to see with one's own eyes." Only when we see the resurrection of Christ personally -- "with their own eyes" -- are able to truly worship the Lord Jesus.

God is not an idea to be debated. God cannot be fully expressed. However, He can be experienced. The reading at the Paschal Divine Liturgy is from the Gospel of St. John. It is a discourse about the Word of God who became flesh and lived among us. The Word of God is Jesus Christ. In this passage we read that, "We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message & President's Message	1
Daughters of St. Nicholas & Kendi Shqip	2
Pledge Program; Daily Scripture Readings	3
Building Project & Parish News	4
The Month's Major Feast Days	5
Major Events & Ushers' Sunday Schedule	6

and truth." Our doctrine about Jesus Christ did not come from academic discourse, but from a first-hand experience of Him as God's Only-Begotten Son and Word.

So, we have the experience of God long before we have explanations concerning Him. We teach that God is Trinity -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Before articulating this belief, we experienced God as the Father, the Creator of all, as the

Pastor's Message is continued on Page 3

President's Message

by Bill Peters

Sunday, March 28th was a very busy day! We celebrated Palm Sunday, enjoyed our traditional Pancake Breakfast and held "Goodbye" Ceremonies for Fr. Andrew and Kristi and their 3 sons Aidan, Isaiah and Jonah. We thank them all for their service and contributions to the Parish during the past year. The large crowd in attendance said their goodbyes and wished the Jarmus Family well in their new home in Indiana. They will be missed.

Holy Week services which finished up with the Pascha services were both very rewarding and inspiring. These most important services of the church year and of our Orthodox Christian faith were participated in by many. As usual, Pascha Liturgy had a standing room crowd with its overflow going to the video set-up in the Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday, April 18th after Liturgy, we will hold our Annual General Meeting. Important business of the St. Nicholas Parish will be discussed. This business discussion will include: religious education, church finances, the building project, social activities, Daughters' of St. Nicholas activities and

the election of new Parish Council members to fill upcoming vacancies.

Our Building Expansion Project is approaching completion. Much has been accomplished! Work items that remain to be done will be completed in April. Final payments for the construction work will be due soon. Those of you who still have to complete the payment of your Building Project Commitment donation and those who still have not made a donation are asked to complete your donations as soon as possible. The expanded church with its new classrooms, larger Fellowship Hall, elevator, new air conditioning system, remodeled kitchen and other improvements will enable us to better serve the Parish Community. The financial support by each of us and our friends in the community is very important for the operation of St. Nicholas Church to be successful.

All Parishioners of St. Nicholas Church are urged to participate in the many church activities, both religious and social. Your support is especially important during the next few months while we will be searching for a permanent Priest. During that time, we will have temporary priests with the help of Fr. Deacon Nathan caring for our churchly needs.

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

A heartfelt thanks to all the ladies, spearheaded by Tina Peters, for the wonderful annual, Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast that was enjoyed by all. Nothing happens without planning and effort on someone's part. We all look forward to these special events hosted by the Daughters. The Daughters are an integral part of the ongoing church life. Please understand this and come and participate. Our church can only be as good as we want to make it.

The Daughters also did a beautiful job decorating the epitaphion. Many blessings to all those that participated. This is a great contribution to the Paschal service.

Krishti U Ngall!! We hope you all enjoyed a joyous Pascha celebration with your family and friends. We should carry this spirit with us all through the year.

The Daughters would like to extend our best wishes to Fr. Andrew and his lovely family as life takes them on another path. It was a joy to get to know you, and you will be missed. Gjithe te miral!

Wisdom:

Children are watching you and doing as you do, not as you say. Here is an excerpt from "When You Thought I Wasn't Looking."

"When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him."

"When you thought . . . I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other."

"When you thought . . . I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry."

"When you thought . . . I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life."

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, April 18th, after Liturgy



Come to our Meeting!!!!

Important business of the St. Nicholas Parish
will be discussed

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Prill, 2010

Këtë muaj po japim "Ligjëratat e Pashkëve" me titull "Rreth Vdekjes dhe Ngjalljes së Krishtit" nga Shën Gregor Theologu dhe lutjen e Nënë Terezës

...Dje unë isha kryqëzuar me Atë; sot jam lavdëruar me Atë.
Dhe unë vdiqa me Atë; sot jam bërë i gjallë me Atë.
Dje u varrosa me Atë; sot jam ngritur me Atë.
Le t'i blatojmë Atij që pësoi dhe u ngjall për ne...vetvetet,
pasuria më e çmueshme dhe më e përshtatshme tek Perëndia.
Le të bëhemi si Krishti, meqënëse Krishti u bë si ne.
Le të bëhemi Hyjnorë për hir të Atij,
Meqënëse Ai u bë për ne njeri.
Ai mori mbi vete më të keqen që të na japë ne më të mirën.
Ai u bë i varfër që nëpërmjet varfërisë së Tij
Ne të mundemi të bëhemi të pasur.
Ai pranoi formën e një shërbëtori që ne
Të mundim të fitojmë përsëri lirinë tonë.
Ai zbriti poshtë që ne të mundemi të
Ngjitemi lart.
Ai u tundua që nëpërmjet Tij ne të fitojmë.
Ai u turpërua që të na lavdërojë ne.
Ai vdiq që të na shpëtojë ne.
Ai u ngjiti që të mund të na marrë tek
Vetvetja, neve që ishim hedhur poshtë
Nga rënja në mëkat.
Le të japim gjithshka, le të blatojmë
Gjithshka tek Ai që dha Vetveten si
Shpërblim e Pajtim për ne.
Ne kishim nevojë për një Perëndi të
mishëruar, një Perëndi të dënuar me
vdekje, që të mundim të rrojmë.

Ne u dënuam me vdekje së bashku me
Atë që të mundim të pastrohemi.
Ne u ngjallëm me Atë sepse u dënuam me vdekje me Atë.
Ne u lavdëruam me Atë sepse u ngjallëm me Atë.
Pak pika Gjaku dhe rikrijuan tërë Krijimin...

Kendi Shqip is continued on Page 4

PASTOR'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

Son as Jesus Christ, true God and true man, and as the Holy Spirit, as the Teacher and Comforter. After the experience came the explanation that we call Trinity.

No one can ever prove to you, intellectually, that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God and the He rose from the dead. We come to know Jesus as God's Only-Begotten Son and experience the power of His victory of death in our hearts and our lives.

The Resurrection is real, but to feel this reality at a personal level we need to experience it in our own lives. We need to experience the power of Christ to resurrect us from our dead hopes, dead dreams, dead

opinions, dead lives, from the deadness of sin, to a new life, a life of glory and peace and hope and joy.

This is my last offering in "The Orthodox Post" as your pastor. My family and I start a new chapter in our lives, as does this parish community. I am sorry that the time we spent together was so brief. I thank God for the experiences and especially for the people I have come to know while serving at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church. I know that this begins a period of uncertainty for the parish as the search continues for a new parish priest. Know that our Lord Jesus Christ who rose from the shadows of the tomb promises to deliver His faithful from all shadows in life. He will send you a priest to be your shepherd, to care for you as you are also cared to support and care for him.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, my prayer for each of this Paschal season is that we behold the Resurrected Christ in our lives, in our homes and in this parish community. May the Light of the Risen Lord shine in our hearts through the Paschal services, through the presence of our loved ones and of all those around us, and through Jesus' life-giving presence in every part of our life. May this experience of Christ's Resurrection fill us with joy, strength and a deeper love for Christ and His Church... and a deeper more personal awareness of His love for us.

In our Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
+Fr. Andrew

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR APRIL

4/1	1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Matthew 26:2-20; John 13:3-17; Matthew 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-45; Matthew 26:40-27:2
4/2	1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2 Matthew 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-43; Matthew 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:55-61
4/3	Romans 6:3-11 Matthew 28:1-20
4/4	Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17
4/5	Acts 1:12-17,21-26 John 1:18-28
4/6	Acts 2:14-21 Luke 24:12-35
4/7	Acts 2:22-36 John 1:35-51
4/8	Acts 2:38-43 John 3:1-15
4/9	Acts 3:1-8 John 2:12-22
4/10	Acts 3:11-16 John 3:22-33
4/11	Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31
4/12	Acts 3:19-26 John 2:1-11
4/13	Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21
4/14	Acts 4:13-22 John 5:17-24
4/15	Acts 4:23-31 John 5:24-30
4/16	Acts 5:1-11 John 5:30-6:2
4/17	Acts 5:21-33 John 6:14-27
4/18	Acts 6:1-7 Mark 15:43-16:8
4/19	Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60 John 4:46-54
4/20	Acts 8:5-17 John 6:27-33
4/21	Acts 8:18-25 John 6:35-39
4/22	Acts 8:26-39 John 6:40-44
4/23	Acts 12:1-11 John 15:17-16:2
4/24	Acts 9:20-31 John 15:17-16:2
4/25	Acts 9:32-42 John 5:1-15
4/26	Acts 10:1-16 John 6:56-69
4/27	Acts 10:21-33 John 7:1-13
4/28	Acts 14:6-18 John 7:14-30
4/29	Acts 10:34-43 John 8:12-20
4/30	Acts 12:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

THINK WITH YOUR HEART



We are blessed by God with material possessions, health, abilities, and life. Also, with intangible blessings – forgiveness, strength, courage, and ultimately eternal life. Therefore it is certainly a given that we should give back to God in return by supporting our St. Nicholas Church.

Pledging is Stewardship -- PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE and Submit your Card-- TODAY

Parish says “Goodbye” to Fr. Andrew and his Family



On Palm Sunday, March 28th, the Parish formally said “Goodbye” to Fr. Andrew Jarmus and his Family. They have been an integral part of the Parish Community during the past year and will be missed.

Words and tokens of appreciation were presented on behalf of the Parish and the Daughters of St. Nicholas by Bill Peters and Irma Mile. Kristi was thanked for her work with the Sunday School, especially with the Youth Group. The Jarmus boys, Aidan, Isaiah and Jonah were thanked for their service and contributions in the Altar and the Church School.

In return, Fr. Andrew and Family gave to our Church a magnificent Icon of St. Nicholas. The icon was painted by Kristi. The joy of the moment and the beauty of the Icon can be seen in the photo.

Fr. Andrew and his Family will be leaving for their new home in Indiana after the Pascha Services.

Palm Sunday Celebration and Pancake Breakfast



Parishioners gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday. A standing room crowd participated in the services and enjoyed receiving the palms after the blessing ceremony at the end of the Liturgy. A special collection was made for the flowers to be placed on the Epitaphi on Good Friday.

The celebration continued in the newly expanded Fellowship Hall where more than 130 people enjoyed our traditional Pancake Breakfast. The event was provided by The Daughters of St. Nicholas. Many worked on this event, but a special “thanks” goes to Tina Peters for cooking those “delicious” pancakes!!!

For Community News Reporting of Information

Please contact Linda Foundos at (516) 671-8071 or email her at ggsutter@aol.com

KENDI SHQIP

Continued from Page 2

Lutja e Nënë Terezës

“ Sot mbretëroftë paqja; paç besim tek Zoti që është me saktësi atje ku do të duhej të ish. Mos harro mundësitë pa fund që lindin nga besimi. Të dish të përdorësh drejt të mirat që ke, e të dish të ndash dashurinë që të është dhuruar. Të jesh i kënaqur për faktin që je një bir i Zotit . Lejoje këtë prani të depërtojë në trupin tënd dhe të bëjë që shpirti yt të jetë i lirë të këndojë, të kërcëjë, të lutet dhe të dashurojë. Ai është këtu për të gjithë e për secilin nga ne.



This Month's Feast Days

HOLY PASCHA - The Resurrection of Our Lord Commemorated on April 4th

Twelve weeks of preparation precede Pascha -- the "feast of feasts." A long journey which includes five pre-lenten Sundays, six weeks of Great Lent and finally Holy Week is made. The journey moves from the self-willed exile of the prodigal son to the grace-filled entrance into the new Jerusalem, coming down as a bride beautifully adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2). Repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and study are the means by which this long journey is made.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. St Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (I Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith.

The resurrection reveals Jesus of Nazareth as not only the expected Messiah of Israel, but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . the holy city, new Jerusalem. And I heard a great voice from the throne saying 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. . . He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:1-4) " .

"In His death and resurrection, Christ defeats the last enemy, death, and thereby fulfills the mandate of His Father to subject all things under His feet (I Cor. 15:24-26)."

Pascha is the inauguration of a new age. It reveals the mystery of the eighth day. It is our taste, in this age, of the new and unending day of the Kingdom of God. Something of this new and unending day is conveyed to us in the length of the paschal services, in the repetition of the paschal order for all the services of Bright Week, and in the special paschal features retained in the services for the forty days until Ascension. Forty days are, as it were, treated as one day. Together they comprise the symbol of the new time in which the Church lives and toward which she ever draws the faithful, from one degree of glory to another.

-- V. Rev. Paul Lazor

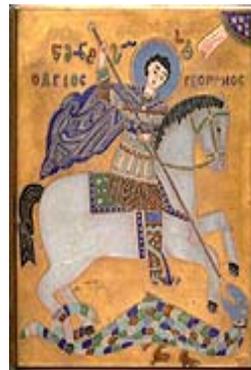
MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN APRIL



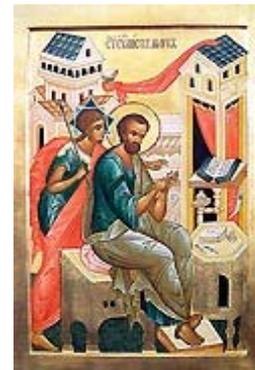
**St. Tikhon, Enlightener
Of North America
April 7**



**Martyrs Agape,
Irene & Chionia
April 16**



**Greatmartyr
George
April 23**



**Apostle and
Evangelist Mark
April 27**

Major Church Activities and Events

Wed, Mar 31: Holy Wednesday(Holy Unction) 7:00p.m.

Thurs, Apr 01: Holy Thursday: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Reading of the Passion Gospels, 7:00 p.m.

Fri, Apr 02: Holy Friday: vespers, 2:00 p.m.
Matins with Procession of the Shroud
(Epitaphi), 7:00 p.m.

Sat, Apr 03: Holy Saturday/Pascha: Divine Liturgy,
10:00 a.m.
Paschal Vigil & Liturgy, 11:00 p.m.

Sun, Apr 04: PASCHA: Agape Vespers, 1:00 p.m.

Sun, Apr 11: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Mon, Apr 12: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Sun, Apr 18: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Sun, Apr 25: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

Apr 04: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra

Apr 11: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

Apr 18: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka

Apr 25: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos

May 02: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code