

THE ORTHODOX POST

December 2010

Volume VI, Issue 11



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432
Web site: www.stnicholasalbanian.org E-mail: fr.nathan@stnicholasalbanian.org Tel: (718) 380-5684

Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

The vision of America, its dream and promise, is the "self-made man". That anyone can rise as high as the crest of his or her aspirations has been the story this country has promoted about itself, the environment it has labored to maintain. And the world has replied with wave after wave of those seekers after this cherished ideal. In such a context, inspired by this driving aim even sometimes unaware, it is not such a wonder that we find ourselves questioning the role of God in our lives. What is the place of God to those who are self-made? Perhaps this inquiry is never stated aloud, but we ask it (or, rather, we answer it) in our decisions, our priorities. When we do not pray, when we do not attend Church, we wordlessly state our indifference to God. There is no shame in asking the difficult question:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message & President's Message	1
Daughters Corner & Kendi Shqip	2
Special Events and Community News	3
Flea Market & Bake Sale	4-5
Article Continuations	6
The Month's Major Feast Days	7
Major Events & Ushers' Sunday Schedule	8

"Why should I care about God?" There should be, instead, shame when we do not face directly the challenge of this uncomfortable query but allow negligence to slip into the place of piety.

Why should we care about God? Because He is like our mother, and a mother's call is always heard. Regardless

Continued on Page 6

President's Message

by Bill Peters

December is here and the end of the 2010 is near. But from a Church business point of view, we need to make a financial pledge and mail or hand-in our Pledge Card for 2011. It is important that we all do this as soon as possible, so the Church can plan on how to serve the community for next year.

This month is not only busy, but is very special. We begin with the celebration of St. Nicholas' Feast Day with services and a Luncheon in our newly expanded Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 5th. JOIN US!!! Luncheon meal tickets are now on sale. See the Ad on page 3.

Also, as part of our Christmas celebration, you should sign-up right away for our Church Christmas Card, so your holiday best wishes can be shared with

parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas.

On Sunday, December 19th, our traditional Christmas Pageant will be performed and followed by a delicious Pancake Breakfast and a joyous visit from Santa.

Of course, the highlight of the season is Christmas services on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th starting at 7 p.m. Later that evening and into the next day, we will continue experiencing the wonderful Christmas holiday spirit with family and friends, and partake in exchanging of gifts.

*To All, Best Wishes
for a
Blessed & Joyous Christmas
and a
Healthy & Happy New Year!!!*

DAUGHTER' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

Merci Beaucoup!!! to all those that helped make our annual Flea Market/Bake Sale a financial and social success. We had a huge amount of donated items for sale at bargain prices. Once again, our "steady" customers returned. Many shoppers come on Saturday and return again on Sunday. All in all, it worked out well. Tina Peters and I, as Co-Chairwomen, are not going to begin to name names, but to those of you that donated items, baked, priced, worked, sold, shopped, cleaned up, etc.; your contributions are all greatly appreciated. A huge thank you to you all!!

Before 2010 comes to an end, there are still activities yet to come. We hope you will make an effort to join us for our annual St. Nicholas Luncheon on Sunday, December 5th to celebrate our patron saint. Later in the month, we will have our annual Christmas Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 19th along with the Sunday School Christmas Pageant. And perhaps most importantly is YOUR attendance for regular Sunday services.

The Daughters of St. Nicholas wish you and your families a VERY, MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS!



Support our Church
Make your Pledge

Turn in your Pledge Card, now!!!

Your Pledges will enable the Church
to Plan how it will serve Parishioners
in 2011.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Dhjetor, 2010

Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë nga "Mësime Fetare Orthodokse" të episkop Irineu dhe nje pjese nga vjersha "Gjuha Shqipe" e Asdrenit.

Lindja e Zotit Krisht

....Në atë kohë, kur romakët sundonin Palestinën, një nga mbretërit quhej Cesar Augusti. Ky urdhëroi të shkonte secili në vendin e tij nga ku ishte për t'u regjistruar si banor i kësaj krahine. Ndërmjet të tjerëve ndodhej dhe Shën Jozefi me Shën Marinë. Këta u nisën nga Nazareti për në Betlehem, sepse ishin nga ky vend. Kur arritën në Betlehem, Shën Maria lindi në nje shpellë Jezusin, Zotin Krisht, të cilin e mbështolli me shpërgenj dhe e vuri në një grazhd kafshësh, pasi nuk kish vënd tjetër fjetjeje.

Për rreth shpellës së Betleheimit, ndër ato fusha të blerta, barinjte po kullotnin bagëtitë e tyre. Kur lindi Krishti ishte natë, Engjëlli iu afrua barinjve, por ata u trembën. Atëhere Engjëlli u thotë: "Mos u frikësoni, po ju jap një lajm të mirë që do të gëzojë gjithë botën: sot në qytetin tuaj lindi Shpëtimtari, Krishti Zot. Shenjat janë këto: Atje, në shpellë të Betleheimit do të gjeni një foshnjë të vogël të mbështjelle me shpërgenj."

Dhe menjëherë një ushtri engjëllore u dëgjua që

Continued on Page 6

COMMUNITY NEWS

by Linda Foundos

- How sweet it was.....the wedding day of Alison Papalexis & Marc Ladd. Joy was all around, from the beaming bride and groom, the perfect weather, the beautiful bridal party, and the lively festivities. Our sincere congratulations to Alison & Marc, the proud parents Barbara & Mark Papalexis and the Ladd family. May God bless this happy couple with a lifetime of joy, love and strength to overcome any of life's little bumps that may come along. Te Tashegothen!!
- Alexis (Peters) Heuser enjoyed a great week back home in New York. She came to help celebrate the wedding of her cousin Alison Papalexis, spend time with her family, reconnect with old friends and relax a bit. At home in Switzerland Alexis is a wife, a mother and runs a business as well! She manages to do it all! Her parents, Tina & Bill Peters are very proud of her and the beautiful family life she and Stefan have created together. It was so good to have her home.
- Our get well wishes go out to Dhimiter Beno for a complete recovery. It has been a difficult time, but he is getting the best care at North Shore Hospital. His family and friends have been very loving and supportive. His wife, Diana, is very appreciative of all the outpouring of calls at home and concern. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Saturday's at 2pm

December 4th, 11th and 18th



This year we are trying a new schedule.

We will meet on Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Our theme this year will be Missions.

Please come to learn about the role of the missionary to which we are called.

St. Nicholas Day Celebration Sunday, December 5th



COME ONE, COME ALL

Buy Your Tickets to the Luncheon Now!!!

Fish Dinner - \$25

Kids Pizza Meal - Free

No Tickets will be sold at the Luncheon

For Tickets Contact -

Iliia Luka, Agathia Luka, Eli Troja, Petrika Troja,
Irma Mile, Isidoros Tsamblakos, Beti Beno Tsamblakos,
Tomi Beno, Ken Gjika, Bill Peters

Flea Market & Bake Sale

On Saturday and Sunday, November 13th and 14th, the Daughters of St. Nicholas ran their annual Flea Market & Bake Sale. Our community and many neighbors in the area attended this event. People especially enjoyed buying and eating the variety of ethnic foods - lakror, baklava and many other pastries, as well as shopping for clothing, jewelry, books, toys, games and household goods among other things.

A special "Thank You" goes to all those who worked on the extensive preparations for this event and who worked to sell food at the bake sale table and kitchen, as well as to the sections selling clothes, shoes, jewelry, books, electronics, household goods, children's toys and sports equipment.

As the result of the efforts of many, the event was a great success!!! This event is an important fundraiser for our Church. A hearty "Congratulations and a Job Well Done!!!" goes to co-chairwomen Linda Foundos and Tina Peters and their Team of Hard-Working Parishioners.

Enjoy the Photos!!!



Flea Market & Bake Sale – More Photos



Pastor's Message

– Continued from Page 1

of the relationship we share or shared with our parents, there is still a note of obligation; they are, after all, our source. The fact that we live is evidence that our mother was the first person to care for us. If she did not, we would not be. She was our first community, the first one ever to recognize us as a unique creation and invest herself in our well being. Thus is God. Regardless of our relationship with Him, He is our source and sustenance. To Him is owed the debt of acknowledgement, the obligation of choice. We must choose to be attentive or choose to disregard. Disregarding this decision, the willful ignorance of neglect, is the only non-option.

It is a notable that rare are the “self-mades” who refuse to stoop from the vantage of their status to help others. Charities are funded by the generosity of those who see need and have means to aid. Relatives and friends are brought from motherlands by those who hope to share their possibilities of success. Indeed, to have succeeded almost demands this sort of return because those who have worked and earned recognize that they cannot have worked and earned alone. None is truly self-made. We respect those who do not forget whence they came or from what. In such memory lies the capacity for gratitude. In such memory lies the necessity for choice.

Let us live intentionally and explicitly, choosing either to acknowledge those dues we have to God, to family, to friends or live consciously ignoring these. If we choose the former, we announce ourselves as God-made and must assume the responsibility of honoring this great patrimony at every moment, hour, and day.

KENDI SHQIP – Continued from Page 2

po lavdëronte Perëndinë për lindjen e Shpëtimtarit me këto fjalë: “Lavdi Perëndisë në më të lartat dhe paqe mbi tokë”.

Kur u larguan ushtritë engjëjlore nga barinjtë, atëhere këta i thanë njeri tjetrit: “Të shkojmë në shpellë e të shohim se c’ka ndodhur atje”. U nisën menjëherë. Aty gjetën Josifin me Shën Marine dhe bashkë me ta Foshnjën e vogël të mbështjellë me shpërgenj. U falën para foshnjës e së fundi u kthyen përsëri tek bagëtitë e veta. Ishin të gëzuar dhe i tregonin gjithkujt se c’kishin dëgjuar prej Engjëjve.

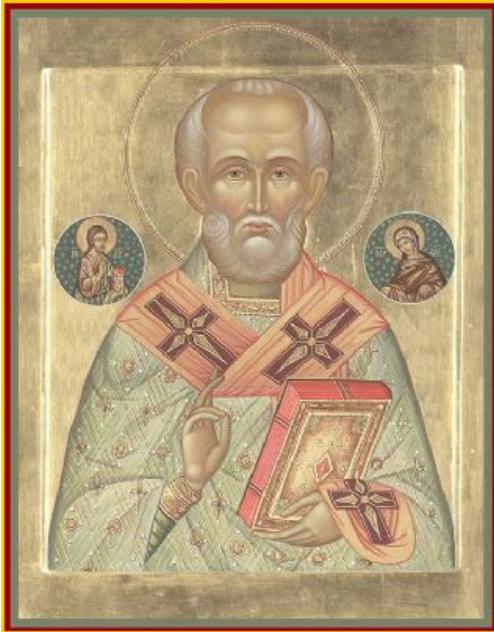
Lindjen e Jezusit e kremtojmë me gëzim të madh më 25 dhjetor. Kisha jonë Orthodokse, ndërmjet këngëve të tjera, psal edhe këtë:

“Lindja jote, O Krisht Perëndia ynë, i lindi botës dritën e diturisë, se me të adhuronin yjet prej yllit mësoheshin të te falen Ty, Diellit të drejtësisë, edhe Ty të të njohin si lindjen që lartëzi. O Zot, lavdi më Ty”.

Gjuha Shqipe

...Bekuar qofshin gjith’ ata të lumit
Që brez pas brezit goja s’u pushoi
Të gjallë që të mbajtnë; për të shumit
Që ngjallja jote aspak nër ment s’u shkoi.

Si zonjë e madhe mbau kryenaltë,
Bëj të gjëmojë zëri yt hyjnor,
Nër vepra fryme mendje më së naltë
T’ia thonë zanat këngës si Tomor!



St. Nicholas The Wonderworker And Archbishop of Myra
 – Commemorated on December 6th

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, after giving birth, was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. St Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor. There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. St Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, St Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshipping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, St Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant." Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, St Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust. Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by St Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness. St Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes.

=

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN DECEMBER



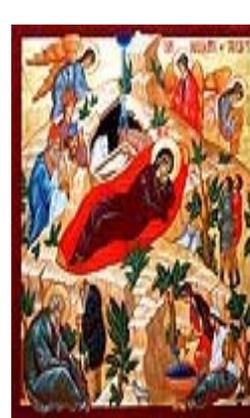
Conception of The Theotokos
December 09



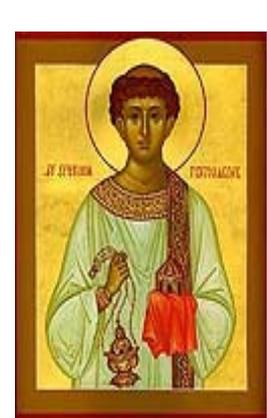
Saint Spyridon The Wonderworker
December 12



The Venerable St. Herman of Alaska
December 13



Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25



Promartyr and Archdeacon Stephen
December 27

Major Church Activities and Events

- Sat, Dec 04: Adult Education, 2 p.m.
- Sun, Dec 05: St. Nicholas Day Luncheon in Fellowship Hall after Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Mon, Dec 06: St. Nicholas Day;
Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sat, Dec 11: Adult Education, 2 p.m.
Youth Retreat, 8 p.m. – God In Cinema, God In the World
- Sun, Dec 12: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m
- Sat, Dec 18: Adult Education, 2 p.m.
- Sun, Dec 19: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Christmas Pageant,
Pancake Breakfast & Santa's Visit
- Fri, Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.
- Sun, Dec 26: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Jan 02: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

- Dec 05: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos
- Dec 12: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- Dec 19: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- Dec 26: Bill Peters / Ilija Luka
- Jan 02: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos
- Jan 09: 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, State Zip Code