

# THE ORTHODOX POST

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## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Since I have become a priest, it has been my great joy to bless a number of different things: icons, homes, businesses, people. I remember the first day after my ordination, I came into the Church and, not quite knowing where to begin or what to do first, I read the prayers and sprinkled the Holy Water on some new vestments so that I could use them when I took Holy Communion to the sick. It was a simple act and, as one of my first, a little confusing because, alone in the Church, there didn't seem to be much remarkable, much spiritual, about these few words and this dash of water. The Christian life is sometimes like that—very normal. One question that I have been asked to answer since then is how or why we Orthodox Christians bless things.

You may remember that when the priest came to your house he gave it a good dowsing, and many of the

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Church's blessings are damp ones. Holy Water can be prepared at any time when we run out, but it is always prepared at least once each year and this on the Feast of Theophany. At that time, we recall the Lord's Baptism, the appearance of the Holy Spirit in dove form above His head, and the voice of God the Father ringing out: "This is my beloved Son..."

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## President's Message

by Bill Peters

Our Building Expansion Celebration was a Great Success!!!

It marked the completion of the construction and the beginning of our using the new space and facilities. The Celebration consisted of a Dance and a Commemorative Journal. The Dance held in the newly expanded Church Fellowship Hall was enjoyed by about 200 Parishioners and Friends of St. Nicholas. Details and photos are provided on page 4 & 5.

The Journal truly commemorates and documents the major building expansion effort as well as highlighting its success. The Journal contains messages from Church personnel, photos of the building project activity with its final results and the

many Ads from individuals, Church organizations and businesses. These include Ads with photos of current and past Parishioners.

Now that we have these expanded and improved building capabilities, every effort must be made to use it to the fullest in serving God and the Community.

Looking ahead, we will have the Flea Market and Bake Sale on November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. You are all asked to participate and work with The Daughters' of St. Nicholas so this fundraiser can be successful.

Finally, make your plans early and buy your tickets to the St. Nicholas Day luncheon on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. See the Ad on page 3.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!!!

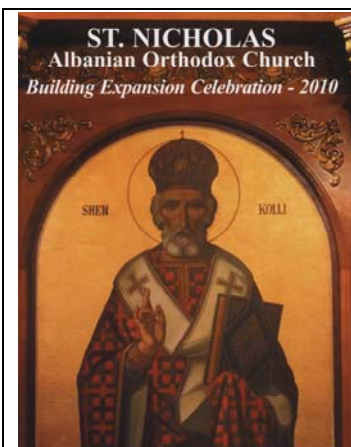
## DAUGHTER' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

Our church expansion celebration party hosted by our Parish Council was a huge success. The fellowship, the music, the meal and the fun atmosphere made for a lively, enjoyable evening. Our next major activity hosted by the Daughters is our annual Flea Market/Bake Sale on Saturday & Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your flea market donation items at this time. Your unused, unwanted items in good, saleable condition may be a "treasure" to someone else. Please check your closets, cabinets, attic, garage and basement for such items.

Pricing is to begin next week. Please see Linda Foundos, Irma Mile or Tina Peters to volunteer for pricing, to work the event weekend or to donate baked goods. A monetary contribution is always appreciated as well to help defray expenses. And, of course, please support our event with your attendance and purchases. If you have any ideas or suggestions to make it better, we'll be happy to hear it. This is YOUR church, YOUR community, come and be an active part of it! It will be better with YOU in it!

HAPPY, HAPPY THANKSGIVING to you and your family. It's a beautiful holiday and a wonderful time for us to reflect on all the blessings in our lives.



### Building Expansion Commemorative Journal

*A special "Thank You" to All of you who bought Ads and contributed to the Success of this Journal.*

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Nentor, 2010

Këtë muaj po japim pjesën e parë mbi lutjen nga libri i Tomas Hopkos "Adhurimi" dhe një pjesë nga vjersha "Atdheut" e Gjergj Fishtës e shkruar në vitin 1902, ne dialektin e veriut.

...Lutja është e rëndësishme për jetën e krishterë. Vetë Jezu Krishti u lut dhe i mësoi njerzit të luten. Ai që nuk i lutet Perëndisë nuk mund të jetë pasues i Krishtit. Në Kishën Orthodokse të gjitha lutjet janë Trinitare. Ne lutemi në Shpirtin e Shenjtë, me anë të Jezu Krishtit, Birit të Perëndisë dhe në emrin e tij tek Perëndia At. Ne i themi Perëndisë "Ati Ynë", sepse Jezusi na mësoi dhe na aftësoi për ta bërë këtë. Ne kemi mundësinë t'i drejtohem Perëndisë At, sepse ne jemi bërë bijtë e Perëndisë me anë të Shpirtit të Shenjtë.

Gjithashtu, në Kishë ne i drejtojmë lutje Krishtit dhe Shpirtit të Shenjtë, Personave Hyjnorë, të cilët janë një me Perëndinë At, dhe ekzistojnë përjetësisht në unitet të përsosur me Atin, duke marrë pjesë në Qënien dhe Vullnetin e Tij Hyjnor.

Në Kishë, gjithashtu ne i drejtojmë lutje edhe shenjtoreve, jo në të njëjtën mënyrë siç i lutemi Personave të Shen Trinisë, por si ndihmuesve dhe ndërmjetësve tanë, si bashkëanëtarëve të Kishës, të cilët tashmë janë lavdëruar me Perëndinë, në praninë e Tij Hyjnore. Por mbi të gjithë Shenjtorët dhe mbi të gjithë njerëzorët, të cilët janë lavdëruar në

Mbrëterinë e Perëndisë, është Maria, Hyjlindësja dhe Mbretëresha e Qiellit, udhëheqësja ndër ndërmjetësit e shenjtë, të cilët ndërmjetojnë për ne para Perëndisë. Ne mund t'i lutemi gjithashtu engjëjve të shenjtë për të mbrojtur çështjen tonë para Perëndisë.

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## The Resurrection of the Church in Albania



Next **Sunday, October 31**, **Al Foundos** will make an audiovisual **presentation** on the amazing and internationally known story of what Faith can accomplish:

*“How the Church in Albania has blossomed under the leadership of Archbishop ANASTASIOS with the aid and efforts of many missionaries from the USA as well as other countries.”*

*Come to witness this and be inspired!*

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Saturday's at 2pm

Starting November 20<sup>th</sup>

If you were to ask the best educated person you know when he or she was finally done learning, likely the reply would be: “never.” Those who are most learned, most knowledgeable, and educated know that learning should never stop. With the beginning of the Nativity Season, Adult Education will commence. As with our children and young people, it is important to continue to reflect on and grow in the Faith. This year we are trying a new schedule. Because many people find their evenings full or themselves tired after a long day, we will meet on Saturday afternoons at two. This leaves the morning and evening free for all those errands and tasks we must complete, but it also helps to guide us into the Liturgy on Sunday morning. Our theme this year will be Missions. Please come to learn and pray and contribute your thoughts.

Mark your Calendar !  
Flea Market & Bake Sale  
November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

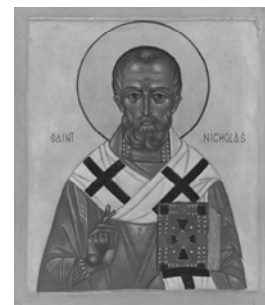


Using our expanded Fellowship Hall, The Daughters will hold its Flea Market and Bake Sale on Saturday and Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

### St. Nicholas Day Celebration Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>



**COME ONE, COME ALL**

Buy Your Tickets to the Luncheon at Church  
during November - \$25

No Tickets will be sold at the Luncheon  
Seating is Limited

More details will be  
available soon

## Building Expansion Celebration – Dance and Journal

On Saturday evening, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, St. Nicholas Church celebrated the completion of its Building Expansion Project with a Dance in the newly enlarged Fellowship Hall and the introduction of its Commemorative Journal.

Almost 200 members of the St. Nicholas Community joined in the Celebration by dancing to Albanian and American music, eating delicious ethnic foods and enjoying the company of family and friends. In a formal program, Jim Liolin as master of ceremonies, introduced Bill Peters, Fr. Nathan Preston and special guest, Dritan Mishto – Consul General of the Republic of Albania in New York.

Bill welcomed all attendees, described the Building Expansion, and thanked the many Parishioners and Friends of St. Nicholas who made the Building Expansion possible through their hard work and financial support. Specifically, he thanked all those who made generous donations to the Building Fund. Also, he thanked those who made special naming-dedication donations for key parts of the project “In Memory” of a deceased loved one or “In Honor” of a person or group. He stated that to date, there are 4 special naming-dedications: the Elevator In Memory of Joan Foundos, a Classroom In Memory of Arba Ana Llupa, a second Classroom In Memory of Kocho James Zacharias and the third Classroom dedicated In Honor of The Beno Family. Finally, Bill thanked the Dance Committee for all their work in making this wonderful occasion a success. He asked the audience to applaud the efforts of the chair persons – Agathia and Ilia Luka as well as members - Isidoros Tsamblakos, Beti Beno Tsamblakos, Tomi Beno, Ken Gjika, Petrika Troja, Zhani Joanidhi, Marsela Shkurti and Ilir Fundo?

Fr. Nathan extended a warm welcome to the crowd, performed a blessing service commemorating the Building Expansion and said prayers of thanks and blessing over the food. Dritan Mishto’s expressed joy at being at this Celebration and his other comments dealt with service to the Albanian community and preserving our cultural heritage.

Finally, Bill introduced the Building Expansion Celebration Commemorative Journal and provided an advance copy at each table. Deliveries to participants will be made in early November. He thanked all those who purchased Ads and made it a success!

### Enjoy the Photos!!!



# Building Expansion Celebration – Dance Photos



## Pastor's Message

– Continued from Page 1

For us, this feast celebrates the revelation of Christ as really and truly God. And this knowledge is known in the waters of baptism. We say, too, that in this activity Christ reveals the world as holy inasmuch as it can contain Him: if heaven is the holy place where God dwells and yet He chooses to dwell with us on earth, then earth—all of creation—must also be capable of being holy. When we sprinkle Holy Water, then, this is not a magic act but a continuation of that same revelation. Our homes, our things, and ourselves are revealed as holy when we choose to view them as part God's plan, as places and things to be used by and for Him. The water does not make things holy that are not; it changes our mind so that we can see that God can be everywhere and chooses to be with us. This is a blessing.

Every year you probably get a little bottle of Holy Water. Maybe you drink it, maybe you sprinkle it. This is a wonderful thing. You may be thinking, "Do I really then need the priest to come?" Surprisingly, no. But the priest comes to your home or business or you bring your icons or books to Church to be blessed by him because there are some things you just can't do alone. The priest comes as a representative of all the members of your local parish and all the members of the whole, entire Church the world over. We Christians always pray together, and it may be inconvenient for you to invite every single Christian to your home or business to ask his or her contribution to the blessing. Imagine the traffic. The priest is a sort of summary—a convenient representative. He comes, you all make the prayer, and sprinkle the water. The real challenge of a blessing, though, comes after it has been made. The real challenge is to see beyond that day and that act that this place or this thing or these people are God's home, that He dwells among them and makes them holy. This is a blessing.

Por një fushë ma e blertë nuk shtrohet,  
Por një mal ma bukur s'rrri,  
Ma i kulluet një lum s'dikohet,  
Moj Shqypni, porsì i ke ti.

N'ty ma i bukur lulzon prilli,  
Janë ma t'kandshme stinë e mot;  
N'ty bylbyli pa le dielli  
Kndon ma ambël t'Madhit Zot.

## KENDI SHQIP – Continued from Page 2

Në Katekizmin tradicional të Kishës radhiten tre tipe lutjesh: kërkesë, falenderim dhe lavdërim. Ne mund të shtojmë një tip të katërt, që mund të quhet vajtim ose ankim para Perëndisë, duke e pyetur atë rreth kushteve të jetës dhe kuptimit të ekzistencës sonë, veçanërisht në kohëra fatkeqësie e turbullirash. Në Shkrimin e Shenjtë, ne i gjejmë shpesh këto katër tipe lutjesh.

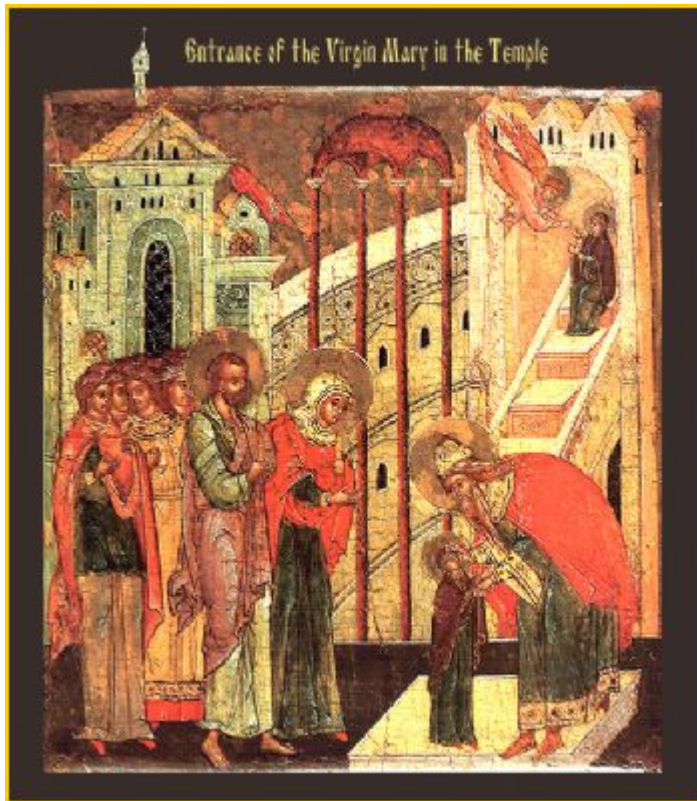
Disa herë lutja është përkufizuar si një dialog me Perëndinë. Ky përkufizim është i mjaftueshëm, nëse mbajmë ndër mend, se ky është një dialog qetësie, mbajtur në qetësinë e zemrave tona. Në Kishën Orthodokse, një përkufizim i vjetër tradicional, e quan lutjen "ngritja e mendjes dhe e zemrës tek Perëndia", qëndrimi në praninë e tij, vetëdija dhe kujtimi i pandërprerë i emrit, fuqisë dhe dashurisë së tij. Kjo lloj lutje është quajtur "të ecësh në praninë e Perëndisë."

Qëllimi i lutjes, është që të kesh një Kungim me Perëndinë dhe që të bëhesh i aftë të përmbushësh dëshirën e Tij. Të krishterët lutën që t'a aftësojnë vetveten për të njohur Perëndinë dhe për të zbatuar porosinë e Tij. Nëse një person nuk e ka dëshirën për të ndryshuar vetveten dhe për ta nënshtruar vetveten tek Krishti, në përmbushjen e porosive të Tij, ai nuk ka arsye ose qëllim për t'u lutur. Madje, sipas shenjtorëve është e rrezikshme t'i lutesh Perëndisë pa pasur mendimin për t'iu përgjegjur dhe për të ecur në rrugën që lutja na udhëheq.

Atdheut nga At Gjergj Fishta

Pa ty lules s'm'i vjen era,  
Pa ty pema fryt nuk m'bjen;  
Mue pa ty nuk m'del prendvera,  
Pa ty dielli nuk m'shkëlxen.

Dersa t'mundem me ligjrue  
E sa gjall me frymë un jam,  
Kurr, Shqypni, s'kam me t'harrue,  
Edhe n'vorr me t'përmendë kam.



**The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple –  
Commemorated on November 21st**

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Sts Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple. There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence. After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret.

***MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN NOVEMBER***



**Saints Cosmas and  
Damian**  
November 01



**Synaxis of the  
Archangel Michael**  
November 08



**St. John  
Chrysostem**  
November 13



**Holy, All-Praised  
Apostle Philip**  
November 14



**Greatmartyr Catherine  
of Alexandria**  
November 24

### Major Church Activities and Events

- Sun, Nov 07: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sat – Sun, Nov 13 – 14: Flea Market and Bake Sale
- Sun, Nov 14: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Mon, Nov 15: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sat, Nov 20: Adult Education Class, 2 p.m.
- Sun, Nov 21: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Nov 28: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Dec 05: St. Nicholas Day Luncheon in Fellowship Hall after Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

- Nov 07: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- Nov 14: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- Nov 21: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
- Nov 28: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- Dec 05: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos
- Dec 12: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- Dec 19: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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