

# THE ORTHODOX POST

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

## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

We are inclined to think of mysteries as those things that confound rather than those things that decode or give meaning. So when we call the Sacraments "Sacred Mysteries" (their proper title), we stop and delve no further, convinced we must find virtue in our ignorance. There is none. These mysteries are for us to ponder not apathetically disregard; these mysteries are for us to live. Today, let us consider Baptism.

As you read this, we are in the midst of Great Lent, and we will have or have had the great pleasure and responsibility of celebrating two baptisms during this season. Entering the water as mere infants, we, the Church, received forth from the same water two new Christians. This is the right time for it. Lent was originally that period when all those who desired entry into the Faith were educated. Learning the scriptures, the prayers, and practices of the Church, the catechumens awaited

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their turn in the baptismal font until just before Pascha. There and then they could join the Lord on his tremendous journey to death and back. Like Him, they were covered—He in the darkness of the tomb, they in the suffocating water. Like Him, three times into those depths as His three days of separation. Like Him, they were raised, clothed in the white purity of sinlessness, and anointed with the oil

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## President's Message

by Bill Peters

In April, we will have 2 very important activities. First, is the holding of our Annual Parish General Meeting on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> after Liturgy. Here we will review and discuss the religious and social programs of the Parish as well as the Church's financial status. In addition, there will be the election of new Parish Council members to replace those whose 3 year term is ending.

Of course, the next activity is the most important in the spiritual life of the Church and our own lives as Christians. The celebration of Paschal!!!

We pass through Great Lent with Pre-Sanctified Services on Wednesday evenings, Lazarus Saturday and progress through Holy Week with the decoration of the Epitaphi and Services. And finally, we culminate our celebration with the midnight Pascha Services. See the schedule of activities on Pages 4 and 6.

Other activities this month include our traditional Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Daughters' of St. Nicholas on Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> after Liturgy. All are invited to attend!!!

Of course Sunday School and Albanian Classes will continue for the children. It is important, so please make arrangements for your children to attend regularly.

**TO ALL, A BLESSED PASCHA!!!!**

## DAUGHTERS' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

As Pascha approaches, the Daughters have much to do. On Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> we will host our annual Easter Pancake Breakfast following services. You can get involved in a number of ways.....shop, serve, set up, clean-up or ticket sales. We hope you will partake in this delicious, fellowship event.

On Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will need volunteers to help decorate the epitaphi in preparation for our Lamentation service. Please contact Tina Peters or Linda Foundos to offer your help for either event.

We wish you and your families a joyous Pascha celebration. Krishti U Ngall!

## General Parish Meeting

Sunday, April 3rd, after Liturgy



**Come to our Meeting!!!!**

Important business of the St. Nicholas Parish will be discussed: including Building Expansion Project Completion, Religious Education, Church Finances, Social Activities, Daughters of St. Nicholas activities and Parish Council Member Elections.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Please contact Linda Foundos, [ggsutter@aol.com](mailto:ggsutter@aol.com) or 516-671-8071, with any news to share.....birth, special anniversary, vacation, major accomplishment or academic honor, new house, new job, promotion, etc.

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Prill, 2011

Këtë muaj po japim nje lutje dhe poemën e Naim Frasherit " Besojmë".

"....Një magji e mbrekullueshme ka për të ndodhur këtë ditë; Natyra do rinohet dhe Zoti do shndrohet në njeri; Ai ruan cilësi që i ka pasur; Ç'ka i mungonte, po i plotëson vetë, duke mos ndërë as konfuzion e as ndarje.

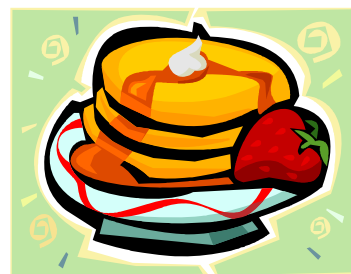
Si mund ta përshkruaj këtë mister? Ai që s'kish mish në trup, u bë me jetë; Fjala u jetësua; Ai që s'mund të shihej, bëhet i dukshëm nga të gjithë; Mund të preket Ai që ishte i paprekshëm; Dhe tani, Ai që nuk kish zanafillë, fillon të jetojë; i biri i Zotit, bëhet i biri i njeriut; Jezu Krishti, i njëjtë dje, sot dhe për jetë..."

Besojmë

Besojmë Zotnë q'është i vërtetë,  
Se gjithë ç'shohëm është ay vetë,  
Dhe falëtorë kemi njerinë,  
Atje e gjejmë dhe Perëndinë.  
Engjëllë thuhetë vetij' e mirë,  
Dhe djalli është pun' e pështirë.  
Njeriu s'vdes' po vetëm ndërrohet,  
Dhe shpirt i ndyrë kurrë s'gëzohet.  
Njerin' e bëri Zoti të lirë,  
Po duhet kurdo të bënjë mirë,  
Dhe i dha mendjen që të peshonjë,  
Dhe të paudhat t'i largësojnë.  
Të mos përflasë, të mos qërtonjë,  
Të jet' i urtë, me nder të rronjë,  
Shpirti na thotë të bëjmë mirë,  
E të mos kemi kurrë dëshirë,

Për të këqia kurrë në jetë,  
Të jemi t'urtë e të vërtetë,  
Fort lark të jemi nga marrëzija,  
E të mos rrojmë si bagëtija.  
Faljë ne kemi vëllazërinë,  
Dhe dashurinë e njerëzinë,  
Se udh' e drejtë e Perëndisë,  
Nuk' është tjetër, veç njerëzisë.  
Po të nderojë njeriu njerinë,  
E ka nderuar dhe Perëndinë.  
Në zemrën tënë e gjejmë Zonë,  
Shtëpi e tij është zemra jonë.  
Të dal në shesh desh Zot' i vërtetë,  
Bëri njerinë dhe atje është vetë.  
Një njeri që njeh vethen e tija,  
E di se ç'është dhe Perëndija.

Come to Our Pancake Breakfast  
on Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>



## **2011 PLEDGE PROGRAM IS COMING TO AN END!!!**

**Pledging is Stewardship, Pledge with Your Heart**

**To Make Sure Everyone's Pledge Has Been Properly Recorded,  
the Names of Parishioners Whose Pledge for 2011 has been Received  
Will Be Listed in the May Issue of The Orthodox Post.**

**If you have not made your Pledge yet, make it soon and get on this List.**

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE  
BY RETURNING YOUR PLEDGE CARD OR CONTACTING  
JIM LIOLIN OR LOU FOUNDOS**

***St. Nicholas Church needs your Financial Support and Participation  
to Properly Serve Our Parish Community.***

### **PRE-SANCIFIED LITURGIES DURING GREAT LENT**

**Wednesday April 6th & 13th at 7:00 pm**



***The Service will be followed by  
a Pot-Luck Lenten Meal  
and Religious Study***

**Participate in this Activity as a  
part of your Preparations  
for PASCHA**

### **Bring Your Child to Sunday School and Albanian Class Every Sunday**



**Plan now to bring your child/children to  
Church School on Sundays.**

**It is important to make arrangements for  
them to attend classes on a regular basis!!!**

**Pastor's Message**

- Continued from Page 1

of Spirit and communion. Having joined Him in death, they were permitted to receive Him in life by receiving His Body and Blood in the thanksgiving offering. This unity became the apex of their lives. As we still sing, "As many as have been baptized in Christ, have put on Christ." This identification of themselves with their God and ours became their central theme of self-understanding. Losing even sometimes their names, they took those of the beloved of God, His saints. They then undertook to live not merely ethical or virtuous lives. They wanted not to be good people but Christians—people always of and with God. But this is only one type of baptism, and there are more.

For those who lived not in a time of peace or tolerance, their blood took the place of the blessed waters, their sufferings and tortures the place of catechism. Many died never having seen the inside of a Church thereafter to awaken to life in Heaven. Their identification with Christ sundered the emblematic nature of these baptismal mysteries: they lived and died with Him concretely. The final baptism is for us, who have not the luxury of persecution. This is its season, too.

With tears we renew our baptism. In Holy Confession, we reclaim the innocence we have lost. With repentance we see ourselves enmired, entombed, but we see also our resurrection with Christ. In Confession, we reclaim our identity as Christ's. This is not a rite or remedy for the embarrassed and guilty hearted; it is for us, the forgetful living, who have forgotten who we are. Feelings of shame and guilt stand as nothing before God's mercy. Feelings of indifference or justified lack of need condemn.

This Lent, become again a member of the Church. Remember yourself as a Christian and go to Confession.



The following services will be held at St. Nicholas during Holy Week:

- Sat, Apr 16:** Lazarus Saturday, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Apr 17:** Palm Sunday, Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon, Apr 18:** Bridegroom Matins, 7:00 p.m.
- Tues, Apr 19:** Holy Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed, Apr 20:** Holy Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Holy Unction
- Thurs, Apr 21:** Holy Thursday - 10:00 a.m. Vespers Liturgy; 7:00 p.m. Matins with 12 Gospels
- Fri, Apr 22:** Good Friday - 9:00 a.m.; Royal Hours, 2:00 p.m., Vespers and Entombment; 7:00 p.m. Lamentations
- Sat, Apr 23:** Holy Saturday - 10:00 a.m. Vespers Liturgy; 11:30 p.m. Paschal Service
- Sun, Apr 24:** Holy Pascha - 12:00 p.m. - Paschal Vespers
- Wed, Apr 27:** Bright Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. Liturgy



**HOLY PASCHA - The Resurrection Of Our Lord**  
 - Commemorated on April 24<sup>th</sup>

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith; receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.  
*(Sermon of St John Chrysostom, read at Paschal Matins)*

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. Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut. Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did: ". . . for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have".

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.

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 . Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.

THE DAY WITHOUT EVENING  
 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.

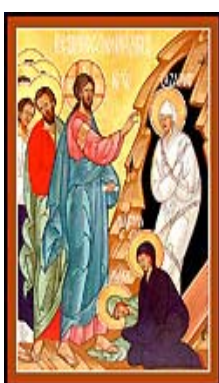
O Christ, great and most holy Pascha. O Wisdom, Word and Power of God, grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee in the never-ending day of Thy kingdom (Ninth Ode, Paschal Canon).

Exerpts from – The V. Rev. Paul Lazor New York, 1977

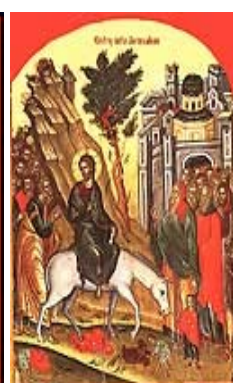
**MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN APRIL**



**St. Mary of Egypt**  
 April 10



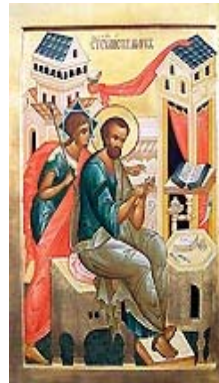
**The Raising of Lazarus**  
 April 16



**Palm Sunday**  
 April 17



**The Great Martyr George**  
 April 23



**Apostle and Evangelist Mark**  
 April 25



**Apostle James, Brother of St. John**  
 April 30

**Major Church Activities and Events**

Sun, Apr 03: Semi Annual Parish Meeting, after Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
 Mon, Apr 04: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 Wed, Apr 06: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 7 p.m.; Adult Study after  
 Sun, Apr 10: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
 Wed, Apr 13: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 7 p.m.; Adult Study after

Sat, Apr 16: Lazarus Saturday, 10 a.m.  
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 11:30 p.m. Paschal Service

Sun, Apr 24: Holy Pascha – 12:00 p.m. – Paschal Vespers

Wed, Apr 27: Bright Wednesday – 10 a.m. Liturgy

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

Apr 03: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra  
 Apr 10: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera  
 Apr 17: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka  
 Apr 24: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos  
 May 01: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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 Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



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