

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

For those of a certain age, it is common to think of history not as what happened but as what we are told has happened, and what we are told is narrated to us only by those who survived and could afford pencils enough to write or draw. Disconcerting to some, this model of history, this system of suspect knowledge, is sometimes a useful one for us, for we wander through this world assuming a great deal. Certainly it is dispiriting to consider something so elemental as history to have been "tampered with", tempered or tinkered to meet the needs and voice the thoughts of an author whose judgments we are too late to contest. Reading history must then become not a synopsis of facts but a dialogue of critical assessment. Responsibility for truth demands that, in the back of our minds, be the constant refrain of, "Can I really trust what he says?" Doing history just got harder. At this point, you are likely asking, "But what has this to do with St. Nicholas Church?" It is this:

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very often those things we take as given are precisely the things on which we need to reflect. As children, our history is handed to us. By whom and to what end? As children and adults, our Church is handed to us. For what?

You may be the exception, but most people, upon entering a church, a shrine, or temple, believe they are going somewhere holy. They go to pray and offer sacrifices. They listen and learn, but at the end, they leave. Returning to
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President's Message

by Bill Peters

Summer is finally here!!! It is a time when we look forward to vacations, trips, picnics, the beach and many other fun activities.

A traditional kick-off to the Summer is our Annual Church Picnic. A very large number of parishioner families and friends had a wonderful time at Manorhaven Park and Beach this past Fathers' Day. The weather was perfect, the food was plentiful and the friendship was great.

During the Summer, much planning and preparation of programs will be underway for implementation at the start of the Church year in September. One important activity is Church School which includes both Sunday School and Albanian Class. There is a need for Teachers for these classes.

Without proper staffing, our children will be deprived of learning about our Orthodox faith. We need parent support and volunteers!!! To those who have the ability and the interest, please contact Fr. Nathan, as soon as possible.

Now that our Building Expansion Project is completed, we are beginning the process to formally acknowledge and thank those people who made donations to the Project. We started this June by dedicating the 3 classrooms and the Elevator. Details are provided in the article at the bottom of page 3. In the Fall, "All Donors" to the Building Expansion Project will be formally thanked. They will be recognized in special ceremonies and a permanent display that will list all donors.

Have a great Summer and we look forward to seeing you and your family in Church!!!

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

Soul Saturday which we observed on Saturday, June 11th was nicely attended. It was a very meaningful service followed by a most delicious, pot luck luncheon. Fr. Nathan and a group of parishioners followed up with a visit and prayers at Mount Tomori Cemetery.

The St. Nicholas annual Fathers' Day picnic was well attended with a perfect day all around. The volleyball and soccer games were quite exciting. The children were active all day including some races, treats and face-painting. Everyone brought plenty of great food to share. It was a great day of fellowship.

Birth Announcement!!!!

It's lullabies, baby bottles and diapers for Alexandra (Liolin) & Michael Kehoe! Aidan James Mario Kehoe was born on June 15th weighing in at 9 lbs. & 4 oz. and 22 inches long. The proud grand-parents, Christina & Jim Liolin, and Teta Elizabeth, are all so delighted with the new arrival. We wish Aidan a very long, healthy and happy life. Alexandra & Michael brought their son home to their home they had just moved into a couple weeks ago. A new home and a new life too! May your new home be blessed with much happiness.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please contact Linda Foundos, 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, etc.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Korrik, 2011

Këtë muaj po japim lutjen e Shën Simon Metafrastes dhe një pjesë nga vjersha "Varfëria" e Naim Frashërit.

" Ti që me deshirë me jep trupin tënd si ushqim,
Ti që si zjarr zhdok atë që nuk është i vlefshëm,
Më kurse mua, O krijuesi im; Kalo në të gjitha pjesët e trupit,

Nëpër gjymtyrë, në mendimet dhe në zemrën time.
Digji gjëmbat e mëkateve të mija; M'a pastro shpirtin dhe më kthjello mendimet.

M'a forco trupin; Më ndriço shqisat.

Më bëj të të kem frikë; Gjithmonë më jep strehë, më mbro,

Më mbaj larg nga çdo veprim dhe çdo fjalë që ma shkatërron shpirtin,

Më bëj të zgjuar, më pastro dhe më kontrollo fjalët'

Më duaj, më mëso, dhe më hap sytë,

Më trego si të bëhem tempull vetëm i shpirtit tënd dhe asnjëherë i mëkatit,

Le të largohet menjëherë nga shpirti im çdo veprim dhe pasion i lig

Duke të bërë ty pjesë të trupit tim dhe përmes kungimit tënd.

Si lidhje, unë sjell tek ty të gjithë Shenjtorët, engjejt, dhe aposujt e mençur,

Dhe përvec këtyre, të sjell Nënë tënde të pastër dhe të zgjuar.

Pranoji lutjet e tyre, Krishti im, pse ti je i dhemshur,

Beje shërbëtorin tënd të sjellë dritë:

Sepse vetëm Ti, Ati i mirë, je shenjtërimi dhe pastërtija e shpirtit tonë,

Dhe ty, O Zot i gjithfuqishëm, përditë të thurim lavde."

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Church School Summer Recess Ceremonies



On Sunday, June 26th, Fr. Nathan conducted Church School Summer Recess Ceremonies after Liturgy. First, he thanked the teachers – Tina Peters, Adelina Llupa and Joanne Heiser (not in photo) – for their dedication and in appreciation presented each of them a bouquet of flowers. Next, each of the children who attended Sunday School or Albanian Class were introduced and awarded a certificate. Everyone in Church applauded the students and teachers. Several children were not in attendance, but will be able to pick up their certificate the next time they attend Church. Finally, a party with refreshments and gifts was held in the classroom for the children. All had a good time!!!

Church School is very important to the life of our children as well as to the life of our Parish Community. To be successful, ongoing parishioner support is critical. Parents must commit to getting the children to Church on a regular basis. Since teachers are needed, parishioners including parents must volunteer to be teachers. Planning is going on this Summer for Church School that will begin in September. Please make a commitment to help and advise Fr. Nathan that you are willing to participate, as soon as possible.

New Classrooms and Elevator Dedicated



Now that the work of our Building Expansion Project is completed, ceremonies acknowledging those who made donations to the Building Project are being held in June and in the Fall. On June 5th, we began with dedication ceremonies for the 3 new Classrooms and the Elevator. The Classrooms were dedicated in Memory of Arba Ana Llupa, in Memory of James Zacharias and in Honor of The Beno Family. The Elevator was dedicated in Memory of Joan D. Foundos. These items were blessed by Fr. Nathan and recognition plaques were placed on their doors.

The naming of specific aspects of the Building Project results from very generous individual donations. Other available naming opportunities include the “New Kitchen” and the “Building Improvements for the Handicapped (ramps and new bathroom)”. If interested in dedicating any of these remaining items “in memory of” or “in honor of” a loved one, please contact Bill Peters or Lou Foundos.

In the Fall, “All Donors” to the Building Expansion Project will be formally thanked. They will be recognized in special ceremonies and a permanent display listing all donors.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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the world outside those walls, reentering the normal, they feel good to have gone. Church, it's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there. Like history, though, we must learn not to trust our predispositions.

We Christians cannot visit the holy. We cannot enter in and out of the presence of God. The Church is not a sacred precinct, a holy confine. God does not live just there, for a god in a box is no god at all. Rather, the Church is here for us to learn a particular way of experiencing God. It is here as an invitation to dialogue, but this must not cease at its doorstep. We find the holy in Church only because we are there. God's holiness does not dwell in the paintings we love and venerate. It does not inhabit the building we pay to support. God's grace is not in the hand or the mouth of the priest. God's holiness dwells in us all when we choose to submit ourselves to experience Him. The Church becomes holy, the universe becomes holy, when we find God there. That we are called each week to eat and drink of God Himself in the Eucharist shows us this, the very preciousness of our relationship, the profound holiness and intimacy of coming together. Our very bodies become moving temples of God. But we must come together. When we decide to interrupt or ignore this unity through carelessness or indifference, this is our decision alone. We look for God in Church sometimes precisely because we do not want him in our lives. Yet the threshold of the Church between the holy and the mundane is our barrier not God's. It is our perception and our flaw not His.

Come to Church as often as you can because this simple activity, these few short hours, are how we record the history of our lives. We draft and inscribe our records of being with God. We narrate ourselves, defining ourselves as creatures in relationship with the Creator. We are not alone. This is the message of our history. Believe it with your actions.

KENDI SHQIP

Continued from Page 2

“Varfëria”

...Sa jemi shqiptarë,
Kemi gjithë një besë,
Jemi gjithë një farë,
Dhe rrojmë me një shpresë,
S'jemi kurrë të ndarë.

...Bes'është Perëndija
Për gjithë Shqipëtarët,
Edhe vëllazerija,
Urtësija, të mbarët,
Fe është njerëzia.

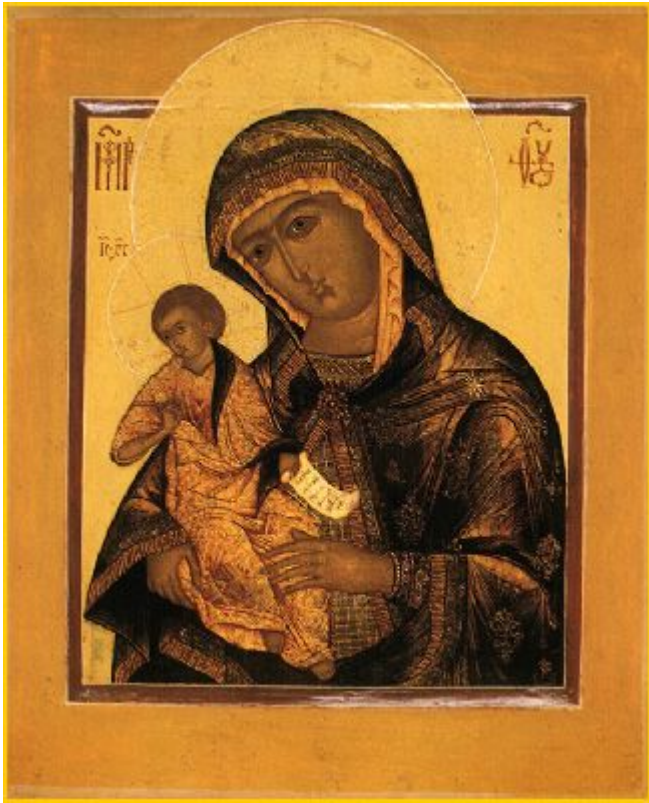
Annual Church Picnic a Success!!!



Parishioners with family and friends had a wonderful time at our Church Picnic on Sunday, June 19th which was held at Manorhaven Beach and Park in Port Washington. Many also celebrated Fathers' Day.

Everyone enjoyed good food, games, fellowship and an excellent park with beach facilities.

Fun and a great time was had by all!!! To everyone who made it possible, Thank You!!!



ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD - "IT IS TRULY MEET" - Commemorated on July 13th

The "It is Truly Meet" Icon of the Mother of God is in the high place of the altar of the cathedral church of the Karyes monastery on Mount Athos.

One Saturday night an Elder went to Karyes for the all-night Vigil. He left, instructing his disciple to remain behind and read the service in their cell. As it grew dark, the disciple heard a knock on the door. When he opened the door, he saw an unknown monk who called himself Gabriel, and he invited him to come in. They stood before the icon of the Mother of God and read the service together with reverence and compunction.

During the Ninth Ode of the Canon, the disciple began to sing "My soul magnifies the Lord..." with the Irmos of St Cosmas the Hymnographer, "More honorable than the Cherubim..."

The stranger sang the next verse, "For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden..." Then he chanted something the disciple had never heard before, "It is truly meet to bless Thee, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the

Mother of our God..." Then he continued with, "More honorable than the Cherubim..."

While the hymn was being sung, the icon of the Theotokos shone with a heavenly light. The disciple was moved by the new version of the familiar hymn, and asked his guest to write the words down for him. When the stranger asked for paper and ink, the disciple said that they did not have any.

The stranger took a roof tile and wrote the words of the hymn on its surface with his finger. The disciple knew then that this was no ordinary monk, but the Archangel Gabriel. The angel said, "Sing in this manner, and all the Orthodox as well." Then he disappeared, and the icon of the Mother of God continued to radiate light for some time afterward.

The Eleousa Icon of the Mother of God, before which the hymn "It Is Truly Meet" was first sung, was transferred to the katholikon at Karyes. The tile, with the hymn written on it by the Archangel Gabriel, was taken to Constantinople when St Nicholas Chrysoberges was Patriarch. Numerous copies of the "It Is Truly Meet" Icon are revered in Russian churches. At the Galerna Harbor of Peterburg a church with five cupolas was built in honor of the Merciful Mother of God, and into it they put a grace-bearing copy of the "It Is Truly Meet" icon sent from Athos.

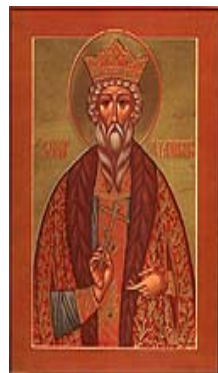
MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN JULY



**Sts. Cosmas and
Damian at Rome**
July 01



**Synaxis of the
Archangel Gabriel**
July 13



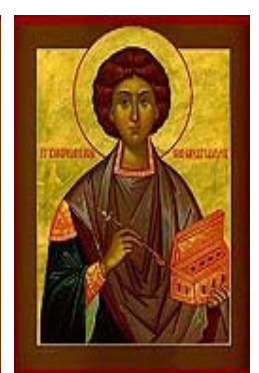
**The Holy Great
Prince Vladimir**
July 15



**Holy Glorious
Prophet Elijah**
July 20



**Martyr Christina
of Tyre**
July 24



**Grandmartyr and Healer
Panteleimon**
July 27

Major Church Activities and Events

Saturday Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
July 2, 16, 23 and 30

Sun, July 03: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Wed, July 06: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Sun, July 10: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Sun, July 17: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Sun, July 24: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Sun, July 31: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Mon, Aug 01: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Sun, Aug 07: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

July 03: Ilir FUNDO / Stefan BALTADORI

July 10: Petrika TROJA / Nasi PAVLLO

July 17: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE

July 24: Lou FOUNDOS / Robert KORRA

July 31: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

Aug 07: Bill PETERS / Ilia LUKA

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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