

# THE ORTHODOX POST

May 2011

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## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Christ is risen! Krishti u ngjall!

Having come through the season of abstinence, arrived at the week of the Passion, and witnessed the triumphant Resurrection of our Lord and God, we now return to our lives and work knowing that we have been party to something wonderful, knowing that what we have seen and experienced must find a place in our lives. But last week's excitement dims quickly, and yesterday's events bleach lighter and lighter with each recollection. We will be ready for Pascha again but only next year. For now, there are more pressing things than trying again to stir our drowsing memories to the joy of such past fuss. Easter—the work of fasting and flowers, chanting, standing, keeping the candles out of children's hands, why is it worth it? History. Tradition. Family. So some reply. And others don't reply at all, thinking silently, "Guilt. Necessity. Because it is expected. Because I am

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expected." Of these voices, none states a reason good enough, sufficient at least to merit the bother of keeping this feast in such demanding fashion. The answer, our answer, is story.

Our faith is not a mere set of beliefs to which we consent. Our faith is not a list of rules. Our faith is not a moral system meant to produce good people or healthy families or even happiness. Our faith is a relationship, and, as

Continued on Page 5

## President's Message

by Bill Peters

Hope everyone had a rewarding Holy Week and Blessed Pascha!!! As shown in the photos on page 4, many Parishioners participated in the services, especially on Good Friday and on Pascha.

At our General Parish Meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the business of the Church was reviewed and discussed. Elections were held and two new Council Members, Joanne Heiser and Ardian Mile, were elected to 3 year terms. Congratulations to both of you!!! Also, Ilia Luka, after many years of service as vice-president stepped down from the Council because his term had come to an end. We thank Ilia for his dedication to St. Nicholas and all the work he has done for the Church!!!

Looking ahead, please take part in the following activities:

- Join us in celebrating Mothers' Day on May 8<sup>th</sup>! See details on page 3.
- Save the date, Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>, for our Annual Church Picnic! See details on page 2.
- Bring your children to Sunday School and to Albanian Class! See details on page 3.

St. Nicholas Church is a small but active Parish. Its success in meeting the needs of Parishioners depends on active participation by all of our parishioners and the friends of St. Nicholas Church.

We look forward to seeing you in Church!!!

## DAUGHTERS' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

Our Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many faces enjoying each other, and so many young bright smiling children participating in the palm procession! The assistance of so many people is greatly appreciated.....Tina Peters with her fabulous cooking, Anila Gjika, Joanne Heiser, Chris Liolin, Pauline Logore, Agathia Luka, Angela Mile, Irma Mile, Nigina, Kim Oswald, Mark Papalexis, Damian Peters, Jenny Peters, and Gloria Sawyer.

The decorating of the Epitaphi on Friday morning was a beautiful, labor of love led by Tina Peters with Eli Troja, her sister Rose visiting from Albania, Ellen Gradt, Viola Kallinikos, Tina Korra, Pauline Ligore and Adriana Topore. A huge thank you to Izzy Tsamblakos who ordered and personally delivered the flowers for us.

A special thanks to Jim Liolin, Elizabeth Liolin, Pauline Logore and Gloria Sawyer who are the heart and soul of our liturgical community singing each week. They lead us all with amazing dedication and great voices. They are greatly appreciated!

We look forward to a Daughters' luncheon with the date to be announced.

Krishti U Ngall!! Vertet U Ngall!!

Happy Spring!

## 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, etc.

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**  
Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> – Fathers' Day  
At Manorhaven Park & Beach



*Save the Date & Plan on Attending*  
**COME ONE, COME ALL!!!!**

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Maj, 2011

**Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë për shërbesat kishtare Orthodoxke dhe një pjesë nga poema "Perëndija" e Naimit**

...Lutja liturgjike kishtare nuk është thjesht lutja e individëve të krishterë të bashkuar në një, nuk është një "shërbesë lutjeje" e shumë njerzve së bashku, por është lutja zyrtare e Kishës e mbledhur zyrtarisht. Shërbesat zyrtare të Kishës Orthodoxke janë zakonisht më të gjata se në kishat e tjera. Kjo ndodh, sepse në shkojmë në Kishë jo vetëm thjesht për t'u lutur.

Ne shkojmë në Kishë të jemi së bashku, të këndojmë së bashku, të meditojmë së bashku mbi kuptimin e besimit, të mësojmë së bashku dhe të kemi bashkim e Kungim së bashku me Perëndinë. Shërbesat e Kishës nuk janë berë për lutjen e heshtur. Ato janë për miqësinë plot lutje të gjithë popullit të Perëndisë me njeri tjetrin, me Krishtin dhe me Perëndinë. "Emri i Zotit qoftë i bekuar, që tani e gjer në jetë të jetëve".

### Perëndija

Është në shesht Perëndija  
I verbëri s'mund t'a shohë,  
Ajo është gjithësija,  
I dituri mund t'a njohë

Për një luleze kur shohim,  
Dhe të vemë re një fletë,  
Me dituri, t'a njohim,  
Q'atje është Zot' i vërtetë.

Është në shesht Perëndija,  
Secili do mund ta njohë,  
Po s'e mbuloj e padija,  
Njeri tekdo mund t'a shohë.

Kush do t'a shohë të tërë,  
Të shohë mirë njerinë,  
Vethen' e tij re të vërë,  
Atje gjen Perendine.

Dhe Parajsa dhe Skëterra,  
Dhe engjëlli edhe djalli,  
Edhe gjithë c'ka të tjera,  
Janë mbrenda tek i gjalli.

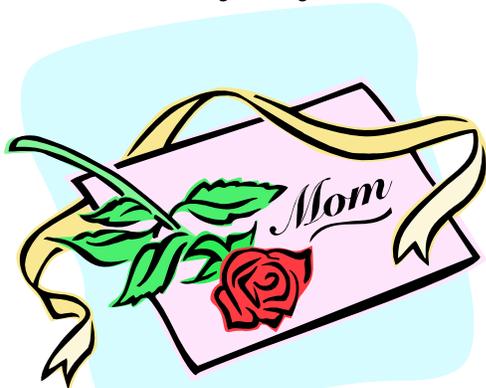
Ajy që ka mirësinë  
Ka Perëndin' e të mirat,  
Edhe kush ka djallëzinë,  
Ka djallë e ligësirat.

## AKATHIST SERVICE in the BRONX



On Friday April 8, St. Nicholas parishioners from around the Bronx gathered at the Vangjell home to celebrate the service of the Akathist to the Mother of God. These joyful prayers of thanks and praise are a traditional part of the Lenten season, served on Fridays throughout the duration of the Fast. St. Nicholas is blessed to have community members spread throughout all the boroughs of New York City and at least three states, but the distance for many is too great for them to experience the richness of the Church's services during Lent. It was a happy thing, therefore, to "bring the Church" to the Bronx. At the close of these prayers, many hours were spent in pleasant conversation, singing, and enjoying the company of each other over food and drink. Fr. Nathan has high hopes to make this opportunity available to other groups of our Church family. When he calls you, refuse only if you don't want to have a good time rejoicing in the beauty of the Church and the joy of your neighbor's company.

### Mothers' Day Celebration Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>



All Mothers will be Honored and Remembered!!!

After Liturgy, a Free Breakfast for the Ladies served by the Men will be held in the Fellowship Hall

### 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!!!

## Celebration of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha

### Palm Sunday 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 Fellowship Hall where more than 100 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!!!

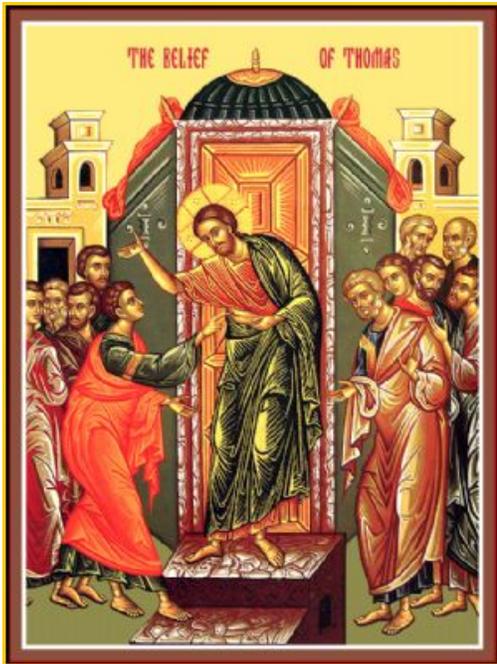
### Holy Week's Good Friday

Holy Week services were held each evening, Monday thru Friday. The week culminated with the decoration of the Epitaphi by a group from The Daughters' of St. Nicholas on Friday morning. With a full Church, Friday evening services featured the singing of "Lamentations" by Jim Liolin and Fr. Nathan, the candle-light procession of parishioners around the outside of the Church three times and finally at the end of the service, the distribution of flowers to attendees from the Epitaphi.

### Paschal Services

With a crowd overflowing to the streaming video feed in the Fellowship Hall and onto the Church front lawn, a large number of parishioners attended the Paschal Services. Highlights included the candle-light procession and the special singing for Pascha. After the service: the cracking of eggs, blessing of food baskets and the breaking of the fast with family and friends in the Fellowship Hall was enjoyed by many.



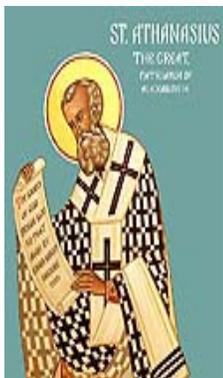


**ST. THOMAS SUNDAY**

- Commemorated on May 1<sup>st</sup>

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts. This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.

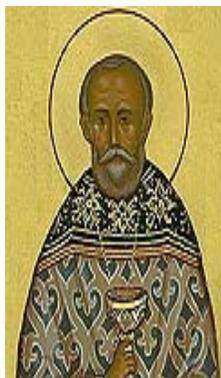
**MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN MAY**



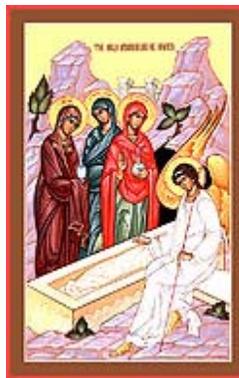
**St. Athanasius the Great – Patriarch of Alexandria**  
May 02



**Greatmartyr St. Irene of Thessalonica**  
May 05



**Repose of St. Alexis the confessor**  
May 07



**Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women with Joseph**  
May 08



**Equal of the Apostles Sts. Constantine and Helen**  
May 21



**Third Finding of the Head of John the Baptist**  
May 25

**Pastor's Message** - continued from page 1

in any relationship of real, personal value, we depend on the stories we tell ourselves. Our stories explain how we are connected. The story of Pascha tells us that we all were chosen by God. He did not dictate this from the clouds impersonally but sent his very own Son to live with us, to die with us, to rise like we shall. As a married couple approaching each other daily sometimes weary with familiarity must remember the first spark of their love and courtship, so must we, who have become inattentive lovers of God, remember the story of His first love for us. Just as with spouse or sibling or friend any attempt to define that other person as a list of attributes cannot help but be incomplete, so it is with God. And as it is catastrophic to act towards those whom we love as though to a list of their characteristics, treating them as clients whose beings we define and not as dear, profound, and infinite creatures, so is it with our Faith destructive to cap and hedge and limit. We live by story not by rule. Story is shared, finding room in each plot for many characters. Rule defines, indicating those in and those out according to the one who wields its edge. Story is told and re-told yielding infinite variations. Rule is static. Story is the account of us not the stock-taking, defining perspective of me. Story has a hero not a statistic.

Let us live Pascha every day of our lives, not with eggs or meat, cheese, wine, or candles, but with our minds. Let us be thoughtful and attentive narrators of this great story of our salvation. May it influence every choice, brighten every day, and lead us to peace.

Indeed, He is risen! Vertëtë u ngjall!

Major Church Activities and Events

- Sun, May 01: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Mon, May 02: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sun, May 08: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
Sunday of The Myrrhbearing Women  
Mother's Day Celebration in the Fellowship Hall
- Sun, May 15: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
Sunday of the Paralytic
- Sun, May 22: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
- Sun, May 29: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
Sunday of the Blind Man
- Sun, June 19: Annual Church Picnic

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

- May 01: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- May 08: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- May 15: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
- May 22: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- May 29: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- June 05: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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