

THE ORTHODOX POST

October 2011

Volume VII, Issue 10



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

It was shortly after I started working at the shelter that I had an experience that changed my life. It was not one of those climactic things: tragic or frightening, a grand epiphany. Rather, it was subtle, a reframing of sorts, more a change of mind than life. Though the shelter served three meals a day plus a nightly snack, there was a refrigerator outside the kitchen in which were kept spare plates of food. These were exclusively for residents who missed the regular mealtimes for licit reasons. Some worked, others were at school, and still others had medical and legal appointments. Plus, it was always wise to keep a meal or two on hand to feed someone who might come in off the streets later, someone who might not have had the benefit of three square meals and a snack per day for a while. Being a shelter, a place where young people often confronted regular discipline for the first time and chafed against this, a place where rules had to take a sometimes too concrete form, this refrigerator was locked tightly with a length of chain and padlock. In my years there, I saw the handles of this much abused machine broken almost monthly so persistent were the attempts to circumvent the lock and key.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message & President's Message	1
Daughters Corner, Church School & Kendi Shqip	2
Flea Market & Bake Sale & Annual Golf Outing	3 & 4
Community News & Building Expansion Donor List	5 & 6
The Month's Major Feast Days	7
Major Events & Ushers' Sunday Schedule	8

One of my tasks, one of every worker's tasks, was to unlock this fridge, take-out meals, and secure it again when those who had been away for a good reason returned to the site. It sounds simple; it was not. With every rattle of the keys, a small crowd, usually young men, would form. Boys really and still growing, many were just hungry again. Others had found business more important elsewhere, usually around the corner or across the street, and elected to miss a meal. I have listened to every conceivable excuse for missing lunch and dinner. Some were creative, but few were good enough.

Continued on Page 5

President's Message

By Bill Peters

September and October are very busy at St. Nicholas!!!

In September:

Church School has begun, so please bring your children to Church regularly, so they can participate in this very important education activity.

Another Annual Church Golf Outing was held. It was a social and financial success.

The Annual Albanian Archdiocese Assembly was held. It addressed the spiritual and business matters of the Archdiocese. We had 4 representatives at the meetings.

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) held meetings of the Metropolitan Council, which we are a part, to address OCA business matters. Business included final preparation for the OCA All-American Council being held October 31st – November 4th. Hundreds of representatives (Bishops, Priests and Laypersons) from Orthodox churches throughout North America will be attending including our Bishop Nikon and Fr. Nathan.

October begins with Fr. Nathan and some of our Youth attending Orthodox Education Day at St. Vladimir's Seminary on Saturday, October 1st.

Our Flea Market and Bake Sale is a major church activity this month. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 22nd & 23rd. It is both a social and a fund raising event. Parishioner help is very much needed! TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT Linda Foundos at ggsutter@aol.com or 516-671-8071. More information is described in the "Daughters" column on page 2 and the Flyer on page 3.

Later this year, it is planned to formally acknowledge the specific donors to our Building Expansion. It will be a formal "Thank You" to those who made it possible. As a first step, a draft list of donor names is presented for comment on page 6. If you have any questions regarding the listing such as spelling of name or a missing name, please contact Bill Peters at Church or at (516) 248-8462.

Have a good month and we hope to see you in Church!!!!

Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

Our annual Flea Market & Bake Sale will be held on Saturday & Sunday, October 22nd & 23rd.

Your help & cooperation is needed for a successful event. Please comb through your home, garage, basement & attic for those unwanted, unused items that are in good & clean condition. We sell just about anything..... knick-knacks, glassware, books, toys, games, linens, clocks, radios, clothing, coats, shoes, handbags, etc. Since it is only a few weeks away, **you may begin bringing in your items NOW.** We will store them in the corner of our expanded section of our Fellowship Hall.

Tina Peters will be chairing our Bake Department, so please let her know what you can contribute. Our pricing work schedule will be determined soon. I will let you know the schedule as soon it is arranged. We are counting on your participation. It is a worthwhile & fun "community function."

Some of the Daughters helped out at our annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing on Monday, September 26th. It's a wonderful event; a very successful fund raiser; a beautiful day. The atmosphere is so fun & friendly. There are always lots of smiles and genuine camaraderie. For many years, this event has been chaired by Al Foundos who attends to every detail. Thank you, Al for your leadership and effort.

Church School (Sunday School & Albanian Class) Bring Your Children!!!



Sunday School has started!

Teachers: Tina Peters (516 248-8462) & Joanne Heiser

Albanian Class begins October 9th.

Teachers: Adelina Llupa (718 432-5970) & Adriana Topore

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Tetor, 2011

Këtë muaj po japim dicka për qetësinë shpirtërore dhe një pjesë nga vjersha "Varfëria" e Naim Frashërit ;

Përkufizimi i fjalës "paqe" në fjalorin e Uebsterit është "një gjendje qetësie dhe pa konflikt". Në traditën e Cifutëve, kjo fjalë përdorej kur përhëndeteshe me dikë, duke na dhënë mesazhin se njerzit, takimet i donin sa më paqësore. Nuk është ky një mendim i bukur! Njerzit e të gjitha racave e besimeve duan të jetojnë në gjendje paqe. Familjet duan paqe; Njerzit duan paqe; Kombet kërkojnë paqe. Në fakt gjithë njerëzimi e do paqen. Por paqa është një ideal i pakapshëm. Qekur Keini vrau vëllanë Abelin, është e vështirë të mendosh se mund të jetohet në paqe. Sot shumica e martesave nuk janë të qeta. Marëdhënjet dhe shoqëritë janë shumë delicate. Ne sot shkojmë në lufte me preteksin për të vendosur paqe...

Ndoshta nuk ekziston paqe e mjaftueshme në botë sot, sepse ne e kërkojmë atë në vende të gabuara. Liania e madhe në fillim të Liturgjisë Së Shenjtë na tregon se ku t'a kërkojmë paqen: "Paqa vjen nga LART, nga PARAJSA- dhe jo nga burime tokësore." Në kohën e turbullirave të mëdha në tokë, Krishti i la Aposujt e Tij me këtë mesazh " Paqen Time po ua lë juve" Paqa e vërtetë sillet tek ne nga "Princi i Paqes" i cili shpëton njerzit dhe i lidh ata me Zotin. Ai na sjell ne një paqe të brëndshme të vërtetë, e cila arrin thellësitë e zemrës humane dhe e pastron atë nga e keqa dhe nga pasionet. Më thjesht, duke njohur Zotin, ne do të kemi qetësi shpirtërore në jetën tonë.

"Varfëria"

...Epni, t'u falë Zoti
Juve gjithë të mirat,
E të mos muntnjë moti
T'ju sjellë të pahirat.

Naim Frashëri

Ep, t'apë Perëndija
Të gjitha mirësitë,
Të të kenë fëmija
Shëndet e jet' e ditë.

Mba unaza ne dorë
Pa një farë nevoje!
Zonjë! Shumë të gjorë
Vdesën për bukë goje!

Zot i madh, i vërtetë!
E gjithë ju të Mirët!
Mos e lini për jetë
Njerinë n'errësirë.

Annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing – A Success

On Monday, September 26th, parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas gathered at the Oyster Bay Golf Club to participate in the Church's Annual Golf Outing. There was much camaraderie. Playing was followed by awards, prizes and dinner. A very special thanks goes to Al Foundos, Donna Oswald and the many, many people who worked so hard to make this event a great success.



Pastor's Message

Continued from Page 1

One day, I had been pestered all afternoon by a young man. Knowing explicitly that he had no good reason to have extra food and being already informed by other workers that his tirade even preceded my arrival, I had no hesitation in resisting his repeated requests. He wanted; I denied. He complained; I replied and reasoned. He followed me to the refrigerator when I went to retrieve a plate for another resident; I discouraged him. He took food out despite my protestation and directives; I yelled at him. I say I yelled, those of you who know me know that I do not yell ever, but I must have raised my voice and to this he responded. Never himself having mastered the "inside voice", he made his indignation loudly clear and stormed away.

For three days, I attempted to speak to him, but he would not bear even to be in the same room as me. I had disrespected him, and every attempt at reconciling this meant more yelling, more storming away. At last, I must have cornered him at a weak moment. I don't know whether anyone had ever before in his twenty years of life offered him an unreserved apology; such things are sadly rare even for those of us who grow up in so-called "good" circumstances. I do know that, after this, for the next three years, despite our differences, despite his good and bad choices I had to observe, despite my own sometimes challenging disposition, we maintained. Regardless of topic or dispute, we knew we could meet in dialogue on common ground, for we had faith that the other person would be there.

To me, this is community—simply a place where we show up again and again. It is the consistency of meeting and being willing to meet each other that demonstrates that we have committed to share our lives. What more can we ask for from God but that He be with us? What more can we ask for from our brothers and sisters but that they be with us? The one thing to ask is of ourselves: are we willing to be with them? This is community.

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.

Community News

- Aloha! Agathia & Ilia Luka had a wonderful time exploring 3 of the Hawaiian Islands. It was beautiful beaches, volcanoes, pineapple fields, grass skirts, barbeques and Island music and dancing.
- The Oswalds, Donna, Jim, Kimberly, Daniel & Alex, had a most memorable trip to Turkey. It was an interesting, educational and fun family vacation before returning to school.
- Tina & Robert Korra thoroughly enjoyed themselves visiting family and friends in Albania, Greece & Italy. They took several excursions and loved it all.
- It's powder blue and little trucks for Cathy & Karl Kepper. Their son, Lucas Phillip Edward, was born on July 25th in "the land down under," Australia, where they make their home. Congratulations to the proud grandparents, Helen & Peter Panajoti, who are so thrilled with the new addition. We wish many blessings on the entire family, and a very long, happy & healthy life to Lucas.
- Our sincere sympathy to the Pillary family on the passing away of our dear Helen Pillary. Helen was a dedicated, devoted member of our community for her entire life. Her beautiful voice and choir direction added so much to our services. She was always ready to participate in activities of the Daughters of St. Nicholas. Helen was a unique and lively personality that added a lot of "life" to St. Nicholas. May her memory be eternal! I perjetshim kujtimi!

Albanian Archdiocese Assembly and The OCA Metropolitan Council Meetings

On September 22–24, Bishop Nikon, clergy and lay representatives from churches in the Albanian Archdiocese met to address spiritual, program and financial matters at the annual business meeting hosted by the St. George Church in Trumbull, CT. Fr. Nathan, Bill Peters, Tomi Beno and John Jance represented our Church. Next year in September 2012, our St. Nicholas Church will be the host of the Archdiocese Assembly.

On September 28–29, bishops, clergy and lay representatives gathered from the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) archdioceses to address the spiritual, business and financial matters of the Church. Much dealt with preparations the 16th All-American Council (AAC) which is being held in Seattle, WA, October 31 – November 4. It is a gathering, about every 3 years to address the needs of the Church and sets the direction of activities for the years between the AAC's. Fr. Nathan will be representing our church at this AAC.

Building Expansion Project Donor List – Draft

Later this year, it is planned to formally acknowledge the specific donors to our Building Expansion Project. It will be a formal "Thank You" to those who made this Project possible. A large plaque listing the names of the donors will be created. The amount of the individual donation will not be listed. However, as indicated in the original fund raising pamphlets, the donor names will be grouped, alphabetically, within bands representing broad dollar ranges.

To insure the accuracy of the final list, a draft list of donor names in alphabetical order is presented below for review and comment. If you have any questions regarding the listing such as spelling of name or your name is missing from the list, please contact Bill Peters at Church, via email (peterslwp@optimum.net) or at (516) 248-8462.

Again, to all of you who Donated, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

Albanian Archdiocese Donors

Angjelo	_____
Apostolu	Lenore
Argjendari	Ektor and Vitore
Asameni	Bujar, Suela
Bajraktari	Harry
Baloo	Sabita
Baltadori	Stefan and Juliana
Beno	Dhimiter and Diana
Beno/Tsamblakos	Beti and Isidoros
Beno	Tomi and Christine
Cakani	Ylli
Coka	Jorgji and Eleni
Diamanti	Piro
Dilo	Frederik and Lori
Duggan	Barbara
Fetahi	Qamil
Foundos	Steven
Foundos	Phillip and Johanna
Foundos	Louis and Linda
Foundos	Albert
Fundo	Alfred
Fundo	Thomaq and Suzana
Fundo	Ilir and Fjona
Gjika	Vasken and Anila
Gradt	Ellen
Grazdani	Kostandin and Momoza
Haile	Britu
Heiser	Joanne and Doug
Jance	Larry
Jance	John
Joco	Eftim
Jones	Steve & Diane
Kallinikos	Viola
Karamitri	Edisa
Kasimati	Dr. Ivi
Kasuli	Richard and Georgianne
Kondili	Aristotel and Mirela
Kondili	Fotaq and Lina
Korra	Robert and Tina
Leshi	_____
Liolin	Elizabeth

Liolin	James and Christina
Llupa	Roland, Adelina and George
Logore	Rozetta
Logore	Pauline
Luka	Ilia and Agathia
Macuka	Vasil
Matute	Carlos and Maria
Memorial Fund for Joan D. Foundos	
Memorial Fund for Edward Naum	
Mezini	Ermira
Mile	Ardian and Irma
Millennium Construction Company	
Mizaku	Roland and Gliqeri
Mone	Thomas and Concetia
Oswald	James and Donna
Panajoti	Peter and Helen
Papalexis	Mark and Barbara
Pavlo	Nasi
Pecani	Vasil and Suzana
Perndocoaj	Albert
Peter	Leonora
Peters	Damian and Jenny
Peters	Bill and Tina
Petro	Kristaq and Romana
Phillips	Helen and Nicholas
Psirakis,	Despina
Qosja Family	
Repishti	Sami and Diana
Rupp,	Fred & Violet
Sheti	Perikli and Kozara
Skendi	Thomas and Odeta
Sotir	Matthew
St. Nicholas Building Journal/Dance Donors	
Taverna Kyklades	
Terova	Gjergj
Topore	Andrea and Adriana
Troja	Petrika and Eli
Troja	Erald
Vangjel	Kristaq and Mimoza
Vesho	Alma
Zacharias	Rosalie



Holy, Glorious Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica – Commemorated on October 26th.

The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of St Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home,

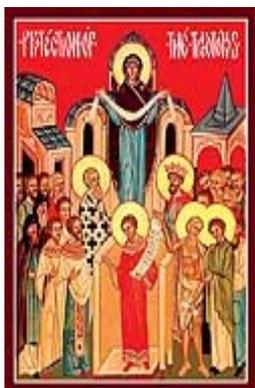
By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne. Maximian, confident in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ.

The Lord also destined St Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the rage of the emperor knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians. Learning of this, St Demetrius ordered his faithful servant Lupus to distribute his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

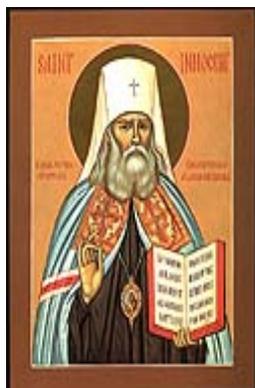
When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. An angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him. At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, St Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of St Demetrius, and he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified by the blood of St Demetrius, St Lupus began to heal the infirm. The emperor issued orders to arrest and kill him. The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of St Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of St Demetrius. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrius, so he is called "the Myrrh-gusher." Several times, those venerating the holy wonderworker tried to bring his holy relics, or a part of them, to Constantinople. Invariably, St Demetrius made it clear that he would not permit anyone to remove even a portion of his relics.

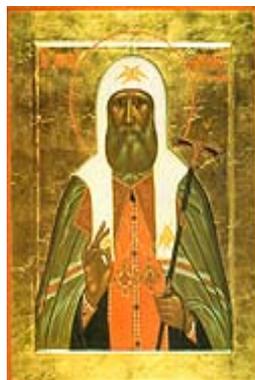
MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN OCTOBER



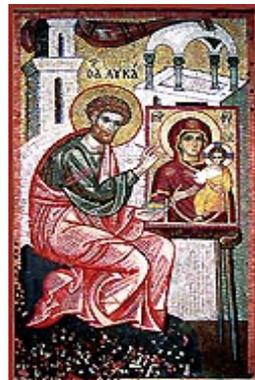
Protection of The Theotokos
Oct 01



Innocent, Apostle to America
Oct 06



St. Tikhon, Enlightener of America
Oct 09



St. Luke the Evangelist
Oct 18



St. James, the Brother of the Lord
Oct 23

Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

- Sun, Oct 02: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Mon, Oct 03: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 Sun, Oct 09: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Sun, Oct 16: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Sun, Oct 22-23: Flea Market & Bake Sale
 Sun, Oct 23: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Wed, Oct 26: Prayers for St. Dimitri, 5 p.m.
 Sun, Oct 30: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

- Oct 02: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka
 Oct 09: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos
 Oct 16: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
 Oct 23: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
 Oct 30: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
 Nov 06: Andrea Kutali / John Jance

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