

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Who do you say that I am?

People are afraid to talk about belief. Too often, it is considered a subject better left to theologians, students, and the reckless. Protesting ignorance, most are happy just to go to Church, finding there once a week what they believe is belief. Faith, like fire, is too hot to handle, so a candle lit weekly usually suffices.

When I was a child, an adolescent, and a young man, my parents worked very hard to instill in me a lesson, and, truth be told, I did make them work very hard. The gist of the lesson was that one's reputation is among one's most valuable possessions. It was a good and necessary concept for someone growing up and has served me well. In the maintenance of one's reputation, there are a couple simple rules: 1. Don't do things of which you would be ashamed if the whole world knew. 2. Actions speak louder than words. Rule two will be the focus of today.

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At all times, we are speaking; even in silence we engage in communication. Our actions yell aloud what we will not say with words, and by our activities we demonstrate who we are and what we believe the world to be. At times, we are lacking harmony. Our ideals may be of generosity, but when we will not give to those who need, our louder voice claims us as mean. We may espouse patience, but its exercise absents us for a thousand "good" reasons, so our true lot is for selfish indulgence. The peaceable and forgiving creatures we like to construe of ourselves, when pressed, disappear, thus begrudged and begrudging are we really. Not all

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President's Message

by Bill Peters

Hope that everyone had an enjoyable Summer!!! It is now time to begin the new Church year. September is the kick-off to the new Church year and has many important activities.

First, we begin Church School which consists of Sunday School and Albanian Class. On Sunday, September 18th, a special blessing for students and Church School will be made after the Liturgy. Also, a Church School Party for students, teachers and parents will follow.

Second, our Annual Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 26th. It is an important

social and fund raising event. Everyone who is able should participate in trying to get golfers to play and merchants to buy sponsoring advertisements. See page 3 for more details.

Third, throughout the month, Fr. Nathan will hold services for several feast days. See the Schedule on page 6. Please try to attend as many of these weekday services, as possible.

Finally, the Albanian Archdiocese will hold its Annual Assembly on September 22-24 in Trumbull, CT. Representatives, both clergy and lay persons, will attend from all the Albanian Churches to care for Archdiocese business and to address major matters facing the Church. The Assembly begins with Bishop Nikon meeting with the Parish Priests.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN CHURCH!!!

**Church School
(Sunday School & Albanian Class)
Needs your Help!!!!**



Teachers are needed for September Classes.
Please Volunteer to Serve.
The Children Need You!!!

Contact Fr. Nathan, Now.

Student and Teacher Blessing

You may have had Father come bless your home this last spring. Did you know that there are blessings for many different things? Every element of our lives is made holy when we think to bring it before God. Education is important. For many, it is a big part of what has brought their family the blessings of prosperity and stability.

Education is a thing worth blessing. Please plan to bring your children, grandchildren, and godchildren on September 18 for a special blessing of students. If you are a teacher, plan to come that day also; your work is important and should be blessed. Whether you are a college student, in high school, a grade school student, or teacher, we would like to remember you in our prayers. Please come Sunday September 18 for a special blessing service right after the Liturgy.

Church School Party

Pizza, ice cream, and desert: all of these will be enjoyed by Sunday School and Albanian Class students, teachers, and parents on September 18 during coffee hour. Plan to start the year of religious education with prizes and fun!

**KENDI SHQIP
(The Albanian Corner)**



by A. Llupa

September, 2011

Këtë muaj po japim lutjen e Shën Simon Metafrastës dhe një pjesë të shkurtër nga vjersha “Varfëria “ e Naimit

“ Ti, që me deshirë më jep trupin tënd si ushqim,
Ti që si zjarr zhduk 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 ndrico shqisat.

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

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, engjëjt, dhe aposujt e mencur,

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

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

Bëje shërbëtorin tënd të sjellë dritë:

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

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

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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 te ndarë.

...Bes’është Perëndija
Për gjithë Shqipëtarët,
Edhe vëllazërija,
Urtësija, të mbaret,
Fe është njerëzia.



COME AND PLAY

Monday, September 26, 2011

14th ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING



Remember last year’s Golf Outing? For those of you who participated last year and had a great time, and for those of you who did not and missed a great outing, we would be pleased to have you join us on **Monday, September 26, 2011** when we will be holding our **14th Annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing** at the **Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course**. This is an exceptional golf course with challenging holes and beautiful views.

We start with registration at 11 a.m. in the morning and tee-off at 12:30 p.m. striking that little magic white ball hoping it goes where we wish, but frequently in another direction. As we move along in good company, we have hamburgers at the pit stop and continue wishing to hit the Hole-in-One and win a BMW. After a beautiful round of golf, we proceed to the 19th Hole at the Woodlands Restaurant in the Clubhouse; followed by a great dinner, prizes/awards and the grand raffle. The results of all this is a great day and evening and a great fundraiser for our Church.

We are reaching out for your participation and/or signing up your friends and relatives to join us at this year’s event. The cost to golf, lunch and dinner is **\$650.00 for a foursome** or **\$175.00 per person**. We also want to encourage you to solicit sponsors for **hole sponsorships for \$250.00**, and/or **prize/merchandise sponsorships for \$100-\$300** for the raffle, which helps raise funds for our church programs.

We do hope that you will participate and invite your friends to join us. Registration/sponsorship forms are available in the office or from any committee member. Please make an effort to help and respond early so we can plan to accommodate everyone.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any one of the members listed, or call 516-520-5227 and ask for Lou or Al.

The Golf Committee: Phil Foundos and Tomi Beno: Co-Chairmen
Mark Papalexis, Al Foundos, Lou Foundos, Jim Liolin and Roland Llupa

Pastor's Message

Continued from Page 1

examples need be negative. More happily, we may find ourselves generous or patient or forgiving, demonstrating those principles when we did not know we had it in us. All the same, despite our words and despite our aims, our actions testify. Our actions speak louder.

When I talk to youngish people, who in frustration claim they find no solace or value in the Church, they usually cite the disparity between action and word that was their experience there. Teenagers are nature's moral hounds, picking up the scent of hypocrisy as though they were born with noses for nothing else. Though such criticism is sometimes too acute, too often a mark of personal indignation rather than genuine critique, it is good to pay it heed. We must attend to these disparities between our stated values and our loved ones. Flawed people we are, aiming for something higher and better and often just missing our aim. Duplicitous people we should not be.

We speak about faith a thousand times a day in the decisions we make. We are theologians in action, whether we like it or not. Though we may fear to discuss belief, pleading ignorance, be assured that our actions have already spoken, informing the world on just what kind of faith we practice. So, who is our god? Jesus was known as a miracle worker to His contemporaries, the people of Judea. The sick and suffering saw Him with hope; the educated, with derision, as a fraud; the disciples, whom He called so often "little faith", could not make up their minds. "Who do you say that I am?" His great question remains for us also to ponder.

What do we say about God with our actions, since that is where it counts? Is He indifferent to our presence in Church, our daily prayers, our struggle for virtue and holiness? If we are Sunday Christians only, that is the god we worship—the Sunday god who slumbers six days out of seven. Or perhaps we worship the god of convenience who wants only to be prayed to, placated, at our hour of need or want, provided such devotion does not interfere with something "important". Countless ranks of other gods are there; we know them; we preach them. But God, the Christian God, is not content to be among these. Having endowed us with life, He wishes us to return this to Him, at all times, in all ways. Until we know this and live this, that we stand always in the presence of God, we are preachers of an inferior faith and theologians of an insufficient creed. What are your beliefs? Who do you say that I am? Who do you live that I am?

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.

Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

We hope you all had a pleasant summer with many happy times. Many days were just perfect; but then there was the earthquake and the hurricane!!

At our recent August unofficial meeting, it was decided that we would have our annual **Flea Market on Saturday, October 22nd**. It will, however, be a little different this year. We will have vendors rather than our own rummage items. We will still have our Bake Sale as well. Please come to our important **Daughters' meeting on Sunday, September 25th** following services. Many details must be discussed and jobs assigned. We need your help and your ideas.

Please note the special services on September 7th & 8th to honor the Nativity of the Theotokos. Also, on September 13th & 14th are special services for the Exaltation of the Cross. On Sunday, September 11th special prayers will be said for the 10th anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11.....a day that changed everything forever!

SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL SERVICE



On Sunday, September 11, we will offer prayers at the close of Liturgy for all those who were killed in the attacks 10 years ago. We will remember, too, those who have given their lives in the service of their country since that time and all of those who have died in the ongoing conflicts. Our prayers of memory are prayers of peace, and we ask that the King of Peace, Christ our God, will heal, comfort, and protect all His creatures. If you would like to prepare the grure for this occasion, please speak to Fr. Nathan. If there are names of particular individuals whom it would be appropriate to remember on that day, please provide these to Fr. Nathan.



The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary – Commemorated on September 8th.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the

Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless. St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

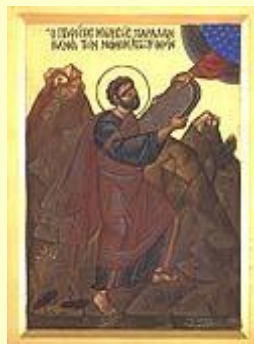
The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls"

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER



Church New Year
Sept 01



Holy Prophet Moses
Sept 04



Prophet Zachariah
Sept 05



Righteous Elizabeth
Sept 05



Exaltation of the Cross
Sept 14



Martyr Sophia and her Daughters
Sept 17

Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

- Sun, Sept 04:** Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Wed, Sept 07:** Nativity of the Theotokos, Vespers Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs, Sept 08:** Akathist, 8:00 a.m.; Nativity of the Theotokos
Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sun, Sept 11:** Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.;
Memorial Service for 9/11 Anniversary
- Tues, Sept 13:** Exaltation of the Cross, Vespers Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Wed., Sept 14:** Akathist, 8:00 a.m.; Exaltation of the Cross
- Sun, Sept 18:** Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.; Blessing of Church School Children and Church School Party
- Thurs, Sept 22-** Archdiocesan Annual Assembly in
Sat, Sept 24: Trumbull, Connecticut
- Sun, Sept 25:** Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Mon, Sept 26:** 14th Annual Golf Outing

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

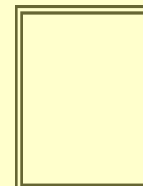
- Sept 04:** Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
- Sept 11:** Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- Sept 18:** Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- Sept 25:** Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- Oct 02:** Bill Peters / Ilia Luka

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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Customer Name
Street Address
City, State Zip Code