

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Last week, we celebrated the Dormition of the Mother of God. Two weeks of fasting in advance of this and another eight days afterward spent celebrating and rejoicing in it make this feast more than a lone date but a season unto itself. The greater part of August either foreshadows or is enshaded by that day, the fifteenth. And this recollection, this day marking the death of the Virgin Mary, is the most pronounced Marian feast of the entire year, more than the Virgin's birth (September 8), the entry into her vocation even in girlhood (November 21), her conception by Sts. Joachim and Anna (December 9), her protection of her own Christian people in their times of need (October 1 and 28), the glad tidings of the Archangel and his message of power and responsibility at the Annunciation (March 25), or the various and numerous other days celebrating special icons or local occasions of her intercession and aid. Though every one of these dates is subject to warm and fond festivity and at each we don blue vestments, clothing the altar and the Church similarly, this August commemoration is distinct, its distinction indicated even in the simple facts of our celebration. Though the Annunciation in March may be profound in its content—the coming Christ,

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

ANOTHER BEGINNING

With any new beginning we have choices to make. *September* marks the beginning of a new church year with the feast of the Elevation of the Cross. It is a good choice to start your year by attending this major Liturgy. For the parents with children, you have the choice, rather, an obligation to bring your children to Sunday School, which begins later this month. Let us all make a resolution to get together at every Sunday liturgy with our church family and friends.

Another event in our church life this September is the upcoming Diocese Assembly which will be hosted in Worcester at St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church on Sept. 24, 25 and 26. This will be held in conjunction with the anniversary. There is a Liturgy and dinner dance to honor the 100th year.

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God born to Mary, borne into the world nine months later at Christmas—on that day we mark more the message not so much it actors. Though a Marian feast, on that March day of Annunciation, Vangjels (from the Greek word for Good News) and not Marys offer sweets and pour raki, welcoming their name day of the Archangel's proclamation. Marys, instead, look towards this summer feast as their day of thanksgiving to their patron, honoring her now in August and rejoicing most of all even on this day of her passing away from life. Like her son before her, even in death there is good news and cause for joy,

Continued on Page 3

If you can be a delegate let me, or Father Nathan, know soon.

A fun choice is our major fund-raising event the Golf Outing on Monday, Oct. 5th. Please make an effort to support the Golf Outing either as a player, sponsor or dinner participant. Ask Tomi Beno how you can support this fund-raiser.

Be an active Church member. You won't be disappointed. The choice is yours, make it a good one!

REMEMBER... November our Annual Pledge drive will begin. This Stewardship effort gives us the opportunity to support the Church and ministries. More information will follow.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Korrik-Gusht, 2015

Thank You Adelina!

For over 10 years, Adelina Llupa has written the Kendi Shqip column for the Orthodox Post. It has been a very popular and informative column for our Albanian-speaking readers. Unfortunately, the column will no longer continue.

On behalf of our community, we want to thank Adelina for her many years of hard work and service to St. Nicholas!

Coffee List

Dear Ladies,

Here is the schedule for coffee for the next 2 months. If your name is listed, please be sure to put it on your calendar. If you need to change the date, please advise Christina Liolin or Adelina Llupa.

It is very important to remember that on the day you are scheduled for coffee, please arrive at church by 10 a.m. so that preparations can be made.

What to bring:

1. Cake for 50-60 people
2. Cookies for the children
3. 1 gallon of milk



August	30	Britu Haile
Sept.	06	Open
	13	Nasi Pavllo / Marcela Guma
	20	Diana Beno / Beti Tsamblakos
	27	Adriana Topore / Jonida Dervishi
October	04	Open
	11	Fjona Fundo / Suzana Fundo
	18	Oneda Sera / Liri Panajoti
	25	Irma Mile / Xhuljana Baltadori

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

Welcome back to all the travelers! We hope you all had an enjoyable summer, even if you had a "staycation," where you didn't leave town. We'd love for you to share your travel experience & summer fun with us. Please contact me with the information.

We're getting back into the fall swing of activities at St. Nicholas. We have a **Daughters meeting** planned for Sunday, **September 27th** following services & a little coffee. We'd love to have you join us with your ideas & energy!

We could use your help for our annual **Flea Market & Bake Sale** scheduled for **Saturday & Sunday, November 7th & 8th**. We're going to work things a little differently this year, so it will hopefully make the pricing go a little easier. Please plan to give a bit of your time for this major fundraiser. **We will be pricing following coffee hour on the 3 Sundays prior to the sale, Oct. 18 & 25 & Nov 1st. YOU MAY BEGIN BRINGING YOUR ITEMS FOR SALE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th.** (As always, the items should be in clean, usable condition.)

Church School Begins



Bring Your Children!!!

**Registration & Treats
Sunday, Sept 20th**

A Pledge Message

Hopefully your summer was a joyful one. We know it is now a busy time going back to school and work but we can't forget why we are able to enjoy those daily necessities. We can't overlook that God gives us our lives and everything attached to our lives. *Stewardship* is - to be caretakers of all that we have been given. We use our talents, time and treasure as the caretakers' tools.

Pledging is the treasure part of our stewardship and enables us to give back a portion of what we have been given to help others. Pledging is the financial commitment each of us makes to our Church to pay for all that we do. By giving from our own abundance, we sustain the work and mission of the church in ways that benefit us directly, benefit other members of our church and our community. We also reap the spiritual benefits of a life founded on generosity and giving, in gratitude for all that we have received.

Nothing is possible without that first commitment from each of you, and we urge you to think about all that St. Nicholas means in your life as you make your pledge.

REMEMBER... November we will begin our Pledge Drive to support our budget for 2016.

COMMUNITY NEWS By Linda Foundos

- Our warmest congratulations to Jenny & Damian Peters on the birth of their second daughter, Nyla Athena, on August 7th weighing in at 9 lbs. 8 oz. Big sister Gabrielle is looking forward to having a playmate. Grandparents Tina & Bill Peters are thrilled with this, their 7th grandchild! May God bless them all.
- God blessed the Ladd household with Theodore (Theo) Thomas on July 30th. Our sincere congratulations to the parents, Alison & Marc; big sister Alexandra and grandparents, Barbara & Mark Papalexis. What a beautiful family!
- It's time to do that annual flushing out of unwanted, unused items in your home to donate to OUR ANNUAL FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th & 8th. Pricing will take place on the 3 prior Sundays...Oct 18, 25 & Nov 1st. Please sign up to help with Linda Foundos or Joanne Heiser.
- Please contact me with news you would like to share.....graduation, new job, engagement, wedding, birth announcement, baptism, new home, travel, major accomplishment or award, get well wishes, etc. You can email me at ggsutter@aol.com.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

Mary is sometimes a controversial figure. I recall that I was approached several years ago at a wedding rehearsal by a family member and member of the wedding party, who inquired what was the difference between his own Roman Catholic and our Orthodox faiths. He had assumed we were all the same only that we did not venerate the Virgin Mary, an idea I quickly banished pointing at one icon after another, pausing perhaps to wipe some lipstick off the one as more than adequate proof of our love of her, too. He was at ease after that, but it is true that many Christian groups do not hold the Theotokos in particular esteem. Beyond her role as the Mother of Jesus, for them, she is a minor figure in the story of salvation. They are not exactly wrong since, in the Scriptures, her place is passing and the view we get of her hardly more than glancing. However, we love her still, and we love her greatly because of the opposites she encompasses, the bridge she is between so many things. Now, keeping this summer feast holy and set apart in its strange mingling of sorrow and joy, we love her perhaps more than ever.

At the Dormition, we grieve; sorrow stains the faces of the Apostles gathered round about this funeral bier, and the festal icon is tinted with their grief. It is a loss very real, of departure and separation, a loss so much alike to those we have all or will have all to experience. But there is joy here too. Joy and peace reign in the reuniting of Mother and Son. Faithful confidence shines even through the disciples' grief. Their faith is not in vain, nor ours. This is the great feast of Mary. Quietly now she gives away that last bit of herself, and her breath ceases. Quietly now she does what she must and dies. Ever quietly, she follows her son, our God, the savior of this world, and on this humbled day, her quietness wins. Because there is strength in it and trust in it and, most importantly, choice, her quietness elevates her. She chooses to let God be in control. In all her life, she makes this choice, consenting to endure much, to lose and suffer a lot, to be even a seemingly second rank character in this story, passive, passing. And because of this, she is glorified above all others. Because of this, the angels, so the hymns profess, are amazed. Falling asleep, she has not forsaken the world but has been translated into life eternal, so we keep this feast and ask her intercessions and struggle to rise in observing her example of humility so deep that it expresses that which words cannot: perfect love.



MARTYR SOPHIA AND HER THREE DAUGHTERS - Commemorated on September 17th

(Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. St Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. St Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117–138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them.

The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith.

They subjected St Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify St Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. St Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER



Church New Year

Sept 01



Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth
Father and Mother of John the Baptist

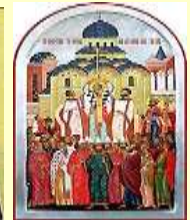
Sept 05



Nativity of
The Theotokos
Sept 08



St Euphrosynus
The Cook
Sept 11



Exaltation of
The Cross
Sept 14

Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church

Please look at the Ads and support these Merchants by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible.

Tell the Merchant that you are from St, Nicholas Church and saw their Ad in the Church's Monthly Newsletter!!!

For New Ads Please Contact – Tomi Beno at (917) 952-9252

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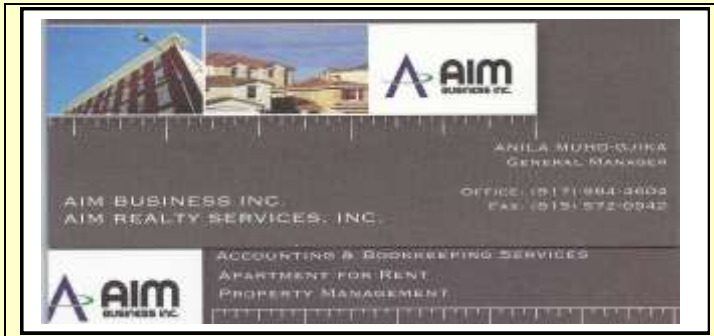
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Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m.
September 12 and 19 (not 05 and 26)

- Sat, Sept 06: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon, Sept 07: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.; Nativity of The Theotokos
- Tues, Sept 08: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Nativity of The Theotokos
- Sun, Sept 13: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.;
Vespers, 4:00 p.m.; Holy Cross
- Mon, Sept 14: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Holy Cross
- Thurs, Sept 17: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; St. Sophia
- Sun, Sept 20: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Sept 27: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

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

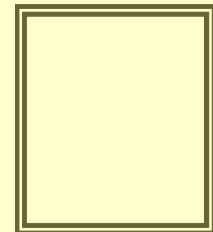
Sep 06: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO
Sep 13: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
Sep 20: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS
Sep 27: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA
Oct 04: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

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