

THE ORTHODOX POST

September 2016

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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

Who walks away from God? As we on Sunday mornings read miracle after miracle story—accounts of healing and accounts of grace—we witness Christ going among the people. The blind are brought to new clarity of vision; the sick and outcasts returned to health and state. Lepers, beggars, both the dumb and those with roaring voices, the impoverished and the desperate, all find grace in the shadow of Christ. And many more are dismissed from such encounters with barely a note from the authors of the Gospels. The last Gospel, John's—final in placement and age—concludes even: "But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." This goodness of God and largesse of Christ seem spread thickly. Indeed, the Lord is generous. But I wonder at the many who met and do meet Christ and walk away unhealed and unchanged. For they are there, too, lingering in the perimeter of these stories we think we know so well.

As Christ meets and works His healings, with special care He always seems to establish relationships first. The miracles He works are not anonymous but proceed

President's Message

By Jim Liolin

As we begin the new year of the Church, September 14th, the Elevation of the Cross, so will several programs continue for the spiritual health of our community. Our Sunday School is functioning with new children attending and we look forward to more this year. Parents with children...you have the choice, or rather, an obligation to bring your children to Sunday School. Please make the right choice for your children.

The Council earlier this summer held meetings with the church members to plan for a regional outreach. We need to meet in areas where our community is located. Services and discussions will be held in the Bronx, Staten Island, New Jersey, Queens, and Long Island. The purpose is to maintain communication between our parishioners and their Church. When you hear about this in your location please join in the program.

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consistently from interaction to confession to help. When the crowd crushes against Him and this mere touch proves restorative, He forces all to pause then calls forward the one who has been healed, invoking health to her soul, knowing her by name and face. The ones who walk away from God, though, are those without need. Pharisees, the wealthy, successful people not caught in the teeth of a chaotic world or simply not caught yet. The lawyers and the teachers and the religious authorities, they with the rich and well-connected walk away. And they do so because

Continued on Page 3

Included in this issue is a notice about the refurbishing of the Epistle. This is one of the few final Epistle books written by Archbishop Theofan Noli. The refurbishing was paid for by the St. Nicholas Memorial Fund. (see more information inside)

Toward the end of the month the Diocese will hold its Annual Assembly and review the business and concerns of our Diocese and the OCA, the National Church of which we are a part. This meeting will be at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in Southbridge, MA. This was the first Albanian Orthodox Church built in America. It is held on Sept 30 and Oct 1, 2016. If you would like to attend as a delegate, please see me or Fr. Nathan. You can bring your family and they can visit "Old Sturbridge Village" an historic interactive museum ten minutes from the meeting.

Don't forget to support the **Golf Outing**, either as a player, sponsor or both. This is a major fund raiser for the Church held on Oct 3, 2016.

See you in Church.....

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



September 04 Open

- 11 Tina Peters / Rosalie Zacharias
 18 Abune Teklehamanot Prayer Group
 25 Open

- October 02 Eli Troja / Alma Vesho
 09 Christina Liolin / Alexandra Liolin
 16 Nina Panariti / Klodi Bode
 23 Flea Market - Bake Sale
 30 Kozeta Pano / Oli Rehova

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

- Welcome home to our travelers! We hope you all had a delightful summer and managed somehow to stay cool with the tremendous heat wave! Now, it's time to return to our fall routine of back to school, time change, fall clean-up, etc. For the Daughters of St. Nicholas, it also means our annual Flea Market. Your fall clean-up/**clean-out** efforts are very important for our fund raising event. Please search your home for any unwanted, unused items in good, usable condition.....kitchen items, shoes, handbags, clothing, blankets, toys, knick-knacks, small appliances, artwork, etc.
- **Flea Market – Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16**
Pricing will take place the 2 prior Sundays, October 2nd & 9th. Weekdays/nights to be scheduled as needed. People may begin bringing items to church Sunday, September 25th. Lakror baking will take place Thursday, October 13th. The Daughters will be coming around with a sign-up sheet. We need your help to make this event a success; so please join us with your donation of items for sale & your pricing/selling help. We appreciate your cooperation.
- Christina Liolin has been kind enough for the past several years to manage our hospitality listing with Adelina Llupa doing the reminder calls. We are in need of participants in this program. **As a part of our St. Nicholas family, it is reasonable to share in the workings of OUR community. It's not fair or right for the burden to fall on a few. It's not right to just take things for granted without some responsibility or effort on YOUR part too. A family is happiest & works best with everyone's participation; everyone benefits.**
- Special pans were purchases for making meshe. For those of you that have one of these, if you have not been able to use it, please return it so that it may be reassigned. Father Nathan has not had enough **meshe** for services.
- The Albanian–American National Organization (AANO) held its 70th annual convention in Tirane on August 5, 6 & 7th. Those in attendance really made the most of their visit & thoroughly enjoyed themselves reconnecting with family & friends & travelling around the country, especially the beautiful seaside!! We were honored to have President Nishani greet us at the Saturday evening banquet. In August, 2017, the next convention will be held in Dallas, Texas for the first time. There is a large, active Albanian community in that area that would like to connect with Albanians in other parts of the United States. It is a wonderful organization that awards scholarships & builds friendships with Shiptare in other U.S. cities. The organization is non–political & non–religious.
- We pray for an end to the violence that has been erupting all over the world. We pray for our leadership to do all it can in this regard and to bring our country to better days.

Church School Begins



**Bring your children !!!
 Registration & Treats
 Sunday, September 18th**



St. Nicholas

Albanian Orthodox Church



GOLF OUTING

**Monday, October 3, 2016
Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course
Oyster Bay, NY**

Hole Sponsor - \$250

Golfer - \$175

Foursome - \$650

Coming Soon.... Mailing with Details!

Pastor's Message – Continued from Page 1

they shy from the challenge of knowing and owning the need that relationship with Christ demands they claim. They will not confess that they are not enough.

As Christian people, we do confess. As Orthodox Christians, we are expected to partake of the grace of confession routinely. We do this not to free ourselves from guilt, expunge ourselves from shame that clings to us like a bad scent. No, guilt and shame are but the open sores of a pride that lives within us. We confess because we must admit that we are insufficient. We ourselves are not enough to be ourselves healthy. In this, we begin to combat that pride that plagues us, and in this, we begin to establish our own and personal interaction with our savior, Christ our God. He will not work miracles for those who do not choose to need Him.

When we deny our need, we refuse grace, walking away from the place where Christ is. When we deny our neediness, we become the unnamed and unhelped and unsaved leaving disappointed from that Gospel scene: where the Lord gives but not according to our terms or tastes. When we deny our needs, our faith is elsewhere, banked elsewhere whether in our hands or intellects or riches—all of our faked strengths. But when we offer our need, we become again confessing creatures, dependants of the Almighty. And we are healed.

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR WORSHIP

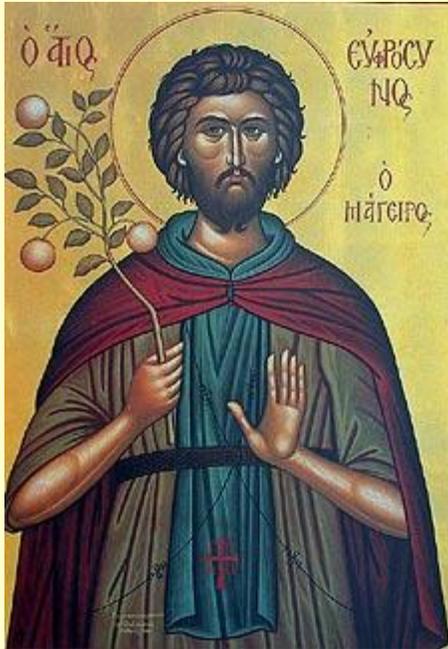
At the close of the Liturgy on Sunday, July 31, a new blessing came to our Church. With prayer and the sprinkling of holy water, our new Epistle Book was made ready for service. This will be read during each Holy Liturgy, that we may listen to the teachings of the saints. This volume is Fan Noli's translation of the Epistles and one of the last remaining liturgical books of his that we still use routinely. Sent to Greece to be restored and bound in shining metal cover, it is back at last and will serve many generations of the faithful at St. Nicholas Church.

This blessing comes to us through the parish Memorial Fund. At funerals, many families elect to request donations to St. Nicholas in place of flowers. These gifts of generosity and remembrance we use to enhance the worship of our Church, making beautiful our services. In this way, those who have gone before provide for those who have yet to come. If you would like more information about the St. Nicholas Church Memorial Fund, please take a look at the flyers in the back of the Church or speak to Fr. Nathan.



SAVE THE DATES
FLEA MARKET and BAKE SALE
OCTOBER 15th - OCTOBER 16th
Saturday (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) - Sunday (12 Noon - 4 p.m.)





ST. EUPHROSYNUS THE COOK, OF ALEXANDRIA-
Commemorated on September 11th
 (Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

Saint Euphrosynus the Cook was from one of the Palestinian monasteries, and his obedience was to work in the kitchen as a cook. Toiling away for the brethren, St Euphrosynus did not absent himself from thought about God, but rather dwelt in prayer and fasting. He remembered always that obedience is the first duty of a monk, and therefore he was obedient to the elder brethren.

The patience of the saint was amazing: they often reproached him, but he made no complaint and endured every unpleasantness. St Euphrosynus pleased the Lord by his inner virtue which he concealed from people, and the Lord Himself revealed to the monastic brethren the spiritual heights of their unassuming fellow-monk.

One of the priests of the monastery prayed and asked the Lord to show him the blessings prepared for the righteous in the age to come. The priest saw in a dream what Paradise is like, and he contemplated its inexplicable beauty with fear and with joy.

He also saw there a monk of his monastery, the cook Euphrosynus. Amazed at this encounter, the presbyter asked Euphrosynus, how he came to be there. The saint answered that he was in Paradise through the great mercy of God. The priest again asked whether Euphrosynus would be able to give him something from the surrounding beauty. St Euphrosynus suggested to the priest to take whatever he wished, and so the priest pointed to three luscious apples growing in the garden of Paradise. The monk picked the three apples, wrapped them in a cloth, and gave them to his companion. When he awoke in the early morning, the priest thought the vision a dream, but suddenly he noticed next to him the cloth with the fruit of Paradise wrapped in it, and emitting a wondrous fragrance. The priest, found St Euphrosynus in church and asked him under oath where he was the night before. The saint answered that he was where the priest also was. Then the monk said that the Lord, in fulfilling the prayer of the priest, had shown him Paradise and had bestowed the fruit of Paradise through him, "the lowly and unworthy servant of God, Euphrosynus." The priest related everything to the monastery brethren, pointing out the spiritual loftiness of Euphrosynus in pleasing God, and he pointed to the fragrant paradisaical fruit. Deeply affected by what they heard, the monks went to the kitchen, in order to pay respect to St Euphrosynus, but they did not find him there. Fleeing human glory, the monk had left the monastery. The place where he concealed himself remained unknown, but the monks always remembered that their monastic brother St Euphrosynus had come upon Paradise, and that they in being saved, through the mercy of God would meet him there. They reverently kept and distributed pieces of the apples from Paradise for blessing and for healing.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER



St. Zachariah
 Father of St. John
 Sept 05



St. Elizabeth
 Mother of St. John
 Sept 05



Nativity of the
Theotokos
 Sept 08



Exaltation of the
Holy Cross
 Sept 14



St. Sofia
 and her daughters
 Sept 17



St. John the
Theologian
 Sept 26

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.

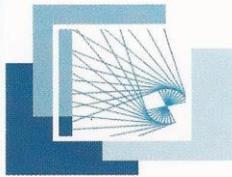
Tell the Merchant that you are from St, Nicholas Church and saw their Ad in the Church's Monthly Newsletter!!!

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

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Major Church Activities and Events

Sat, Sept 03: Health Prayers, 5:00 p.m.
 Sun, Sept 04: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Wed. Sept 07: Vesperal Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.: Nativity
 of the Theotokos
 Thurs, Sept 08: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.: Nativity of
 the Theotokos
 Sat, Sept 10: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
 Sun, Sept 11: Liturgy, 10am
 Tues, Sept 13: Vesperal Liturgy, 7pm: Holy Cross
 Wed, Sept 14: Prayers, 10am: Holy Cross
 Sat, Sept 17: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
 Sun, Sept 18: Liturgy, 10am ; Church School
 Registration after Liturgy
 Thurs, Sept 22 – Sat, 24: Archdiocesan Assembly,
 Southbridge, Massachusetts

 Sat, Sept 24: Vespers is cancelled.
 Sun, Sept 25: Liturgy, 10am

Start of Church School

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

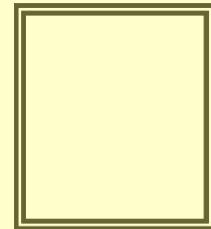
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Sep 11: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS
Sep 18: Stefan BALTADORI/Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
Sep 25: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE

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 181-14 Midland Parkway
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