

THE ORTHODOX POST

July-August 2016

Volume XII, Issue 7



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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

There are many, many types of services in our Church. While most reading this will be aware of the Sunday morning Holy Liturgy, many aware also of Holy Friday Lamentations and Pascha's fiery light, fewer of you will have had the opportunity to see something else of the riches of our faith. It's a simple reality and reflection of where we live and how. But for funerals, weddings, and baptisms, most don't/won't go the Church except on Sundays. Nothing new, this, not even the excuses: time, distance, other commitments, etc. And nothing at all incorrect or false in these excuses, for we do all live busily, pulled many ways many places all the time. But we should be aware that the life of prayer continues as it always does, even, sadly, without us. It's not for nothing that we adorn the Church with pictures of saints and angels; they worship eternally. We just try.

The teachings of our faith instruct us of at least two things regarding worship. First, we are created as worshipping beings. The prayers in the baptism service make this beautifully clear in their poetry and verse. There, the sun sings, the moon and stars revolve around that God Who is their center. And all who have descended into those blessed

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

This year the June picnic had a special surprise – the soccer game between Albania and Romania, streaming LIVE on a large screen TV was shown. All those who were present loved the excitement. We will continue the tradition next June but to top this years surprise will be tough.

During the next few months various church groups will be working and preparing for the busy Fall ahead.

The Sunday School steering committee will meet with Father Nathan to fine tune an effective program for our children. Please make the effort to give all our children the opportunity to learn their faith. Bring them to Church.

The financial and investment committees will look at the progress for the year and prepare for the budget of 2017.

The Golf group will be teeing off promotional efforts to get the people and sponsors in line for another successful and much needed fund raising project.

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waters are charged to follow. Second, "paradise" such as it is cannot be the domain of our fancies and dreams. When we die, we don't expect compensation or reward, not the fulfillment of a life of pleasures postponed. No, when we die, we are to be ready to worship more fully; that is one of the few guaranteed things of our Christian afterlife—that God stands there at its center. As such, now is the time to prepare, now is the time to begin to learn to worship. Paradise everlasting may prove uncomfortable otherwise.

Continued on Page 7

The Beautification Committee has been meeting to plan for the upgrade changes in the temple of our Church.

Archdiocese:

The Diocese Assembly will be held this September in Southbridge MA. If you are interested in being a delegate, notify Fr. Nathan.

The Theological Fund has underwritten programs for individual missionaries in OCMC and as well as continuing education of our clergy. Fr. Nathan Preston will be journeying to Albania this summer with a financial grant from the Fund.

That's it for now. Have a fun filled and safe summer. We'll see you in Church.

Coffee List

Dear Ladies,

Here is the schedule for coffee for the next 3 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



DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST COFFEE WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH UNLESS THERE IS A MEMORIAL OR OTHER SPECIAL REQUEST.

| | | |
|-----------|----|-------------------------------|
| September | 4 | Tina Peters/Rosalie Zacharias |
| | 11 | Irma Mile/Xhuljana Baltadori |
| | 18 | Open |
| | 25 | Eli Troja/Alma Vesho |



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!

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

We hope you enjoyed your Fathers' Day celebration and the annual St. Nicholas Picnic. It certainly was a beautiful day. The children delighted in the games & prizes managed by Damian Peters; and the Albanian soccer game drew a big, lively crowd of spectators to the flat screen TV!

Enjoy your travels and summer days; but don't forget that God does not take the summer off.

Congratulations to our graduates that have done so well. Their families are very proud of them as are we all. They certainly have a bright future ahead.

Our sincere condolences to Adelina Llupa on the falling asleep in the Lord of her mother. May her memory be eternal.

A prayer from St. Frances says, "It is in giving that we receive".

Special Parish Meeting

“How to Increase Parishioner Involvement in Church Services and Activities”

There was a rather candid and open discussion Sunday, June 12th, after Liturgy regarding the lack of participation in services, ministries and administration by the church community. We were hoping to come away from the meeting with at least one course of action. Well, who says Albanians can't agree, we can and did agree on the following:

- It is imperative that the Council and parishioners, work together in encouraging our parishioners and extended community to get involved in the Church. Everyone realized that it will take more than just a few people to gather our community into a cohesive force.
- It was agreed that we establish a regular outreach program to gather the communities in homes in the geographic areas of Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, New Jersey and Long Island. Also, open the outreach program to the local community in Jamaica. These discussions will concentrate on the Church as a whole and what our community needs.
- The Council is on board to start the planning and implementation with Fr. Nathan. A "Special Committee" under the direction of the Council will be established to start the program by recommending leaders in the geographic areas mentioned above and supporting the activity.
- A new agenda item at Council meetings will include assisting Father in identifying those parishioners not attending Church for a while and extending outreach to them, including the making of personalized calls.
- This parishioner outreach to increase participation in Church services and activities will begin in the Fall.



Goodbye to Fr. Will and Jillian

On Sunday, June 19, St. Nicholas Church celebrated the feast of Holy Pentecost by sending out its own new missionaries. Fr. William and Priftëresha Jillian Rettig prayed one last time with us before saying goodbye and preparing for their new post at Holy Resurrection Church in Fargo, North Dakota.

Since last fall, we have been blessed to have them with us as Fr. Will completed his final year at St. Vladimir's Seminary, where he graduated last month with great distinction as class valedictorian. In their time with us, Fr. Will was able to travel with Fr. Nathan to meet members of our community both near and far while Priftëresha Jillian offered her talents to the benefit of our worship, often making beautiful flower arrangements for feast days and other important occasions.

At the close of last Sunday's service, the Daughters of St. Nicholas presented Fr. William with a new pectoral Cross to honor and celebrate all the transitions of this last year—his ordination as a deacon then priest. They hope he will wear this for many years as he continues the work of prayer and service that he has begun and prepared for in our own St. Nicholas Church.

Please keep these, our own new missionaries of Christ's Church, in your prayers in the coming months and years. If you would like to follow their work in Fargo, you can look in at Holy Resurrection's parish website here: <https://orthodoxfargo.org/>

Many years and për shumë vjet to Fr. William and Priftëresha Jillian! May God bless their coming work!

Baptism an Important Part of our Lives

St. Nicholas Church is very proud to introduce the six newest members of our holy faith, who were Baptized during the first half of 2016. They are Leonard & Albana Konci Ndreu, Erik & Krista Jorgji, Anda Halilaj and Erich Stroka.

We welcome them into our community and this life we share with Christ and with each other. Through Baptism, they have entered into a high calling, becoming servants of God and learning to serve His world. Through Baptism, they have begun to know that special place in all of creation that their Creator has chosen for them, here with us.

They all have much still to learn about living the Christian life, they are in the right place. Our job is to see that they grow here, mature here, and discover here with us what life with God means. Please keep them and their families and their godparents in your prayers; help them in this journey of growth towards God.

Leonard & Albana Konci Ndreu (January 30, 2016)

Godparents:

Izzy Tsamblakos (for Leonard)

Diana Beno (for Albana)



Erik & Krista Jorgji (March 13, 2016)

Parents:

Dea & Adrian Jorgji

Godparents:

James Beno (for Erik)

Thea Pavllo (for Krista)



Baptism's continued

Anda Halilaj (March 26, 2016)

Parents:

Gezim Halilaj &
Alma Andoni (deceased)

Godparent:

Anastas Dervishi



Erich Stroka (May 7, 2016)

Parents:

Altin & Elda Stroka

Godparent:

Elna Filipe

Big Sister: Greta



PICNIC

St. Nicholas Annual Fathers' Day Picnic

A Fun Day for All!!!!

Sunday, June 19, Fathers' Day was a perfect day for the Church Picnic. Parishioners gathered to honor fathers and grandfathers....enjoying sunny skies, sizzling grills, music in the air, plenty of action, laughter and lots of conversation. The children enjoyed many games and prizes! Though the crowd was smaller than normal, those who attended had a very good time.

A special feature this year was watching on "Live" TV the Albanian Soccer Team play in EURO-2016. Among many of our cheers, Albania won over Romania by a score of 1 - 0.

A special "Thank You" goes to all who attended and to those who worked so hard to make this Picnic a fun event and a social success!!!

ENJOY THE PHOTOS!!!



PICNIC - continued**Children's Games****Running Foot Race****Balloon Walking Race****Bean Bag Toss****Frisbee Toss****Prizes****Pastor's Message** – continued from Page 1

As worshipful creatures, we pray. At home, in cars and schools and places of work, on trains, (perhaps especially for some) on planes, we pray everywhere in everything. This is a particular gift for us Christians that ours promises to be a listening God. And we pray in Church, but our voice there, our aim there is different, special, and distinct from prayer elsewhere, for it is in Church that, beyond crying out to the God Who hears, we also are given the chance to learn. We come to know Him at whom are pleas are directed. At Church also, we come to know that we do not pray alone, cannot pray alone since there is no such thing as a solitary Christian. Sadly, one lesson per week makes us pretty poor students and often distracted ones at that because we delude ourselves to think that we have already come to some mastery of what's being taught. We can't; we haven't. Eons more will not suffice for us to learn to live up to our high challenge: "In the fear of God, with faith and love draw near."

At St. Nicholas Church, we are doing something new starting this summer. Most of you should be aware of the regular cycle of services: Saturday vespers, Sunday liturgy, feast days and saints' days. It's all there on the back of this newsletter and on the website too. We're adding another opportunity each month to come, to learn, and to be healed and helped. On the first Saturday of every month this summer, vespers (the evening preparatory service) will be replaced, traded in and exchanged for prayers of healing and anointing. These are for everyone. Orthodox or not, faithful or not, God's care, God's love is for all. Maybe you won't come; maybe you can't. The summer, despite its reputation for ease, is rarely easy or free from the many demands by which all our lives are possessed. But if you can't/won't, certainly you know someone who needs some prayer, certainly you know someone who needs some hope and encouragement. Tell them. That's the Gospel in a nutshell: tell them. And you are that Gospel's missionary. Forty minutes in the shade of a Saturday evening, forty minutes to learn to know the God Who loves. Tell them.



VENERABLE ANGELINA OF SERBIA -

Commemorated on July 30th

(Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

Saint Angelina was the daughter of Prince George Skenderbeg of Albania. Her mother's name is not known, but she raised her daughter in Christian piety and taught her to love God. St. Stephen Brancovich, the ruler of Serbia, had come to Albania to escape those who wished to kill him. Some time before he arrived in Albania, St. Stephen was unjustly blinded by the Turkish Sultan for some perceived offense. Since he was innocent, he bore his affliction with courage. St. Stephen was not only Prince George's guest, but he was also treated as a member of his family. Not surprisingly, Stephen and Angelina eventually fell in love. With her parents' blessing, they were married in church. After a few years, they were blessed with two sons: George and John.

When the boys were grown, St. Stephen and his family were forced to flee to Italy for their safety. At that time the Turks invaded Albania and began to slaughter men, women, and even children. St. Stephen died in 1468, leaving Angelina a widow. In her distress, she turned to the ruler of Hungary for help. He gave them the town of Kupinovo in Sirmie. St. Angelina left Italy with her sons in 1486, stopping in Serbia to bury St. Stephen's incorrupt body in his native land.

The children of these pious parents also became saints. George gave up his claim to the throne in favor of his brother John, then entered a monastery and received the name Maximus. John was married, but had no sons. He died in 1503 at a young age, and many miracles took place before his holy relics.

St. Angelina survived her husband and both of her sons. Mindful of her soul's salvation, she entered a women's monastery. She departed to the Lord in peace, and her body was buried in the same tomb as her sons in the monastery of Krusedol in Frushka Gora.

St. Angelina is also commemorated on December 10 with her husband St. Stephen and her son St. John.

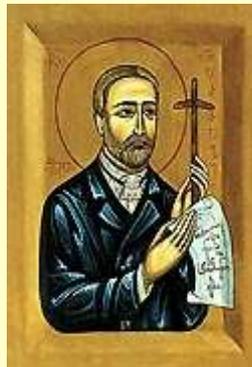
MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN JULY



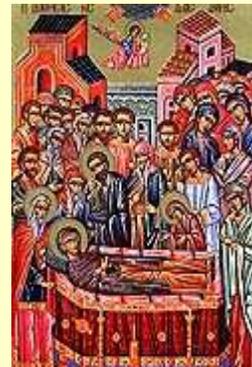
**Archangel
Gabriel
July 13**



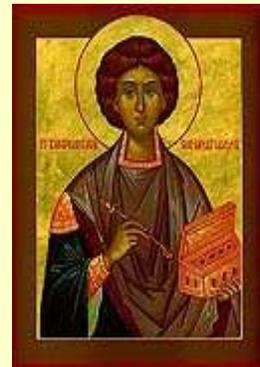
**St. Marina
of Antioch
July 17**



**Martyr Ilia
July 20**



**Dormition of
St. Anna
July 25**



**St. Panteleimon
July 27**



MARTYRS FLORUS AND LAURUS OF ILLYRIA -
Commemorated on August 18th
 (Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

The Martyrs Florus and Laurus were brothers by birth not only in flesh but in spirit. They lived in the second century at Byzantium, and afterwards they settled in Illyria [now Albania]. By occupation they were stone-masons (their teachers in this craft were the Christians Proclus and Maximus, from whom also the brothers learned about life pleasing to God).

The prefect of Illyria, Likaion, sent the brothers to a nearby district for work on the construction of a pagan temple. The saints toiled at the structure, distributing to the poor the money they earned, while they kept strict fast and prayed without ceasing.

Once, the son of the local pagan-priest Mamertin carelessly approached the structure, and a chip of stone hit him in the eye, severely injuring him. Sts Florus and Laurus assured the upset father, that his son would be healed.

They brought the youth to consciousness and told him to have faith in Christ. After this, as the youth confessed Jesus Christ as the true God, the brothers prayed for him, and the eye was healed. In view of such a miracle, even the father of the youth believed in Christ.

When the construction of the temple was completed, the brothers gathered the Christians together, and going through the temple, they smashed the idols. In the eastern part of the temple they set up the holy Cross. They spent all night in prayer, illumined with heavenly light. Having learned of this, the head of the district condemned to burning the former pagan priest Mamertin and his son and 300 Christians.

The martyrs Florus and Laurus, having been sent back to the prefect Likaion, were thrown down an empty well and covered over with earth. After many years, the relics of the holy martyrs were uncovered incorrupt, and transferred to Constantinople. In the year 1200 the Novgorod pilgrim Anthony saw them. Stephen of Novgorod saw the heads of the martyrs in the Pantokrator monastery around the year 1350.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN AUGUST



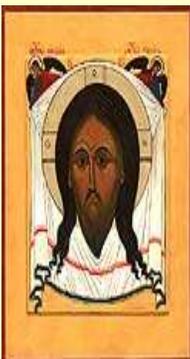
**Procession of
The Cross
Aug 01**



**Transfiguration
of the Lord
Aug 06**



**Dormition of
the Theotokos
Aug 15**



**Christ
the Savior
Aug 16**



**St. Cosmas
of Aitolia
Aug 24**



**Venerable Moses
the Ethiopian
Aug 28**



**Beheading of
John the Baptist
Aug 29**

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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St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church

Job Description for Office Secretarial Position

Office Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Perform Power Church data entry as follows:
 - a. Add new names, addresses and other pertinent data in appropriate category;
 - b. Make changes as needed to parish name/address list;
 - c. Enter annual pledges and icon pledges;
 - d. Enter pledge income on a weekly basis;
 - e. Enter checks and deposits and Sunday collection data on a weekly basis;
 - f. Print and distribute statements on a quarterly basis.
2. Open and distribute mail.
3. Obtain approval for bill payment and write checks.
4. Provide translation services, English to Albanian and Albanian to English, written and verbal.
5. Make copies of and distribute *Orthodox Post* and *Sunday Bulletin* as requested.
6. Retrieve and deliver messages to Pastor and/or Council President as appropriate.
7. Maintain cemetery records and coordinate with cemetery staff and funeral director as needed.
8. Compose and/or respond to correspondence as directed by Pastor and Council President, including any “Thank you” letters for donations.
9. Coordinate Church events, such as luncheons, parties, hall rentals, memorials, as required.
10. File all correspondence and accounting records.
11. Perform other office duties as requested by Pastor and/or Council President
12. Maintain and catalog Church items for insurance
13. Coordinate inspection appointments – Utilities, Fire Dept/Building, Lift, Boiler
14. Prepare mailings for meetings and social events

Approximately 8 hours per week in the office is required.

If interested in this position, by August 1st, please send an email expressing your interest with a resume describing your experience. Send information to council@stnicholasalbanian.org

Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers on these Summer Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m.

July 09, 23 and 30; and August 13

Prayers for Health: Saturday July 02 and Saturday August 06

- Sun, July 03: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, July 10: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, July 17: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed, July 20: Prayers, 7:00 p.m.; Prophet Elijah
- Sun, July 24: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon, July 25: Prayers, 7:00 p.m.; Dormition of St. Anna
- Wed, July 27: Prayers, 7:00 p.m.; St. Panteleimon the Healer
- Sun, July 31: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Dormition Fast**
- Mon, Aug 01: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; Procession of the Cross
Paraklesis, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed, Aug 03: Paraklesis, 7:00 p.m.
- Fri, Aug 05: Great Vespers, 7:00 p.m.; Transfiguration of The Lord
- Sat, Aug 06: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Transfiguration of The Lord;
- Sun, Aug 07: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon, Aug 08: Paraklesis, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed, Aug 10: Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
- Fri, Aug 12: Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
- Sun, Aug 14: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Great Vespers, 5:00 p.m.; Dormition of the Theotokos
- Mon, Aug 15: Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.; Dormition of the Theotokos
- Sun, Aug 21: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Aug 28: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

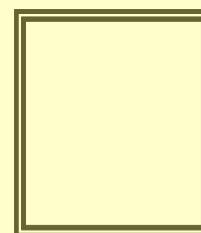
Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kisha

- July 03: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
- July 10: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS
- July 17: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA
- July 24: Ilija LUKA / Bill PETERS
- July 31: Stefan BALTADORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
- Aug 07: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE
- Aug 14: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO
- Aug 21: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
- Aug 28: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org



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