

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Born to a body like ours, reared wise to a rude world—of cheats, of threats, of that bruising that so pairs with growth—it is unlikely that Christ entered into manhood unscarred. He, too, could finger the contours of former hurts, scabbed over, marked and marred, permanented in His skin. And so did His ministry begin.

He healed; He calmed; He made others rethink the ways they lived. He brought to many the necessary care so that they could look beyond their own hurts, wonder past their wounds, and think that maybe, just maybe, there was something more to life than banking pain. To stand in the eye of His love for but a moment changed them. His attention called all to a world beyond the slim perimeter of experience alone, beyond bad memories borne and all those regrets hefted, shouldered, and struggled solo. Then He died

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

Update:

In early April we held the General Meeting and one major action was the election of the Council. Before listing the new members I want to first acknowledge two members that finished several years on the Council. Their contributions were important in implementing "Best Practices" in our administrative functions. These two members are Tina Korra and Tomi Beno.

The new Council members are: Jim Liolin, Lou Foundos, Bill Peters, John Jance, Mark Papalexis,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Pastor's Message & President's Message</i>	1
<i>Daughters' Corner, Coffee List &</i>	2
<i>Community News & Article Continuations</i>	
<i>January Feast Days</i>	6
<i>Merchant Ads</i>	7-9
<i>Major Events & Ushers' Sunday Schedule</i>	10

cruelly, painfully, purposefully.

Whips and fists, thorns and nails: the "good news" was scripted into cuts, Christ's life sculpted into great and rending tears until it seemed as though there was nothing left but flesh dead and abandoned. The tomb a dark place where even those who loved approached with tears, afraid to hope. A dark hour had come to this savior's friends, those students still new to thoughts of love and change, and they struggled to

Continued on Page 3

Ilia Luka, Izzi Tsamblakos, Damian Peters, and the newest member is Zhani Joanidhi. We look forward to Zhani's contributions. During the next Council meeting on May 9th the Council will elect new officers.

Coming on May 22nd our Archbishop Nikon will be here to celebrate a hierarchal liturgy. We look forward to a wonderful day with many in attendance. Please join us for brunch in honor of the Archbishop.

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**

May	01	Pascha
	08	Mother's Day
	15	Tina Peters / Rosalie Zacharias
	22	Visit by Archbishop Nikon
	29	Open
June	05	Fjona Fundo/Suzana Fundo
	12	Oneda Sera/Liri Panajoti
	19	Picnic
	26	Irma Mile/Xhuljana Baltadori
July	03	Open

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

St. Nicholas was delighted to host one of the Pan Orthodox Vesper services this Paschal season. On Sunday, May 10th, clergy from several parishes along with a few parishioners from each of their church communities came to worship with us and share a meal. It really is a wonderful event in which to participate. A heartfelt thank you to the ladies that donated Lenten dishes for our grand buffet, and it certainly was grand...Donna Oswald, Britu Haile, Dea Jorgji, Barbara & Mark Papalexis, Shkipa & Nasi Pavlo, Christina Liolin, Christine Beno, Joanne Heiser, Penny Kastaris, Jillian Rettig & Father Nathan. Our guests were delighted and surprised. Special thank you also to Christina Liolin, Britu Haile & Mark Papalexis for setting up, serving & cleaning up. Your effort is greatly appreciated.

Our annual Pascha Pancake Breakfast was well received. Thank you to Damian Peters & Christina Liolin for preparing the pancakes for us. Irma Mile & Eli Troja took care of ticket sales; Joanne Heiser took care of the bagels & serving the children; Jillian Rettig, Lou Foundos, Daniela Beno helped set up. Christina Beno shopped. James Oswald helped serve & clean up. We were blessed to have had so many little ones participating in the annual palm procession!

We look forward to having you join us to welcome His Grace Bishop Nikon on Sunday, May 22nd with a brunch following services.

Krishti U Njalll! Christ is risen!

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH PICNIC



SAVE THE DATE!!!
PLAN ON COMING TO THIS FUN EVENT
SUNDAY JUNE 19TH

Pastor's Message – Continued from Page 1

learn to endure. Three bleak days bled of wonder and emptied of that joy they had come to know as saving, they abided. While Christ rested in the mystery of death, forcing its doors and sapping its reserves, His friends wandered a hell of their own. They paid heavy passage to rejoicing, a toll of grief extracted in those days and nights when they possessed but doubt as their currency. But like their Lord, they, too, passed through. It's the getting to Resurrection that's not so comfortable for anyone.

Since Christ is God, His path is perfection. Since the way He chose and shows to walk, we trust, leads to life, we must walk also into sometime wastelands of dark and harsh truly terrible things. If we would be perfected, we must follow into the grave before we own its exit. And Christ did not rise unblemished. Our icons show no miraculous skin grafted over to a pearly clarity, no muscles knitted back into wholeness. His hands are bleeding and His feet. His brow remains crowned in scrapes and His side jagged open for Thomas to find faith there. No, He returned intact but with the new marks of murder now marked as love.

So for us, the trying-to-be-faithful, our lives point not towards a pure paradise of empty bliss. For life with Christ, we wager all, not simple good displaced in brighter tomorrows free from care. We follow Christ because He makes our blood worth something. The ample sorrows and strains that are our lot in our few years upright upon the earth are made not chaos but change, their tensions upon us just tight enough to grow supported like bound trees firmed in earth. So when we claim the Lord's Resurrection as our own, we know that salvation is in the process of our dissolution, for we will be raised torn. We will be as He is, as He became for us: broken and fully alive.

**Mothers' Day Breakfast
Sunday, May 8th
Come and Celebrate !**





EQUAL OF THE APOSTLES AND EMPEROR CONSTANTINE WITH HIS MOTHER HELEN - Commemorated on May 21st

The Church calls St Constantine (306–337) “the Equal of the Apostles”. He was the son of the Caesar Constantius Chlorus, who governed the lands of Gaul and Britain. His mother was St Helen, a Christian of humble birth. At this time the immense Roman Empire was divided into Western and Eastern halves, governed by two independent emperors and their co-rulers called “Caesars.” Constantius Chlorus was Caesar in the Western Roman Empire. St Constantine was born in 274. In 294, Constantius divorced Helen in order to further his political ambition by marrying a woman of noble rank. After he became emperor, Constantine showed his mother great honor and respect, granting her the imperial title “Augusta”. Constantine, the future ruler of all the whole Roman Empire, was raised to respect Christianity. His father did not persecute Christians in the lands he governed. This was at a time when Christians were persecuted throughout the Roman Empire by the emperors Diocletian and his corulers Maximian Galerius in the East, and the emperor Maximian Hercules in the West.

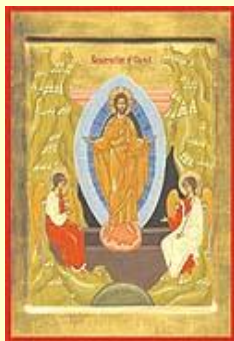
After the death of Constantius Chlorus in 306, Constantine was acclaimed by the army at York as emperor of Gaul and Britain. The first act of the new emperor was to grant the freedom to practice Christianity in the lands subject to him. The pagan Maximian Galerius in the East and the fierce tyrant Maxentius in the West hated Constantine and they plotted to overthrow and kill him, but Constantine bested them in a series of battles, defeating his opponents with the help of God. He prayed to God to give him a sign which would inspire his army to fight valiantly, and the Lord showed him a radiant Sign of the Cross in the heavens with the inscription

“In this Sign, conquer.”

After Constantine became the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 which guaranteed religious tolerance for Christians. St Helen, who was a Christian, may have influenced him in this decision. In 323, when he became the sole ruler of the entire Roman Empire, he extended the provisions of the Edict of Milan to the Eastern half of the Empire. After three hundred years of persecution, Christians could finally practice their faith without fear. Renouncing paganism, the Emperor did not let his capital remain in ancient Rome, the former center of the pagan realm. He transferred his capital to the East, to the city of Byzantium, which was renamed Constantinople, the city of Constantine. Constantine was deeply convinced that only Christianity could unify the immense Roman Empire with its diverse peoples. He supported the Church in every way. He recalled Christian confessors from banishment, he built churches, and he showed concern for the clergy.

The emperor deeply revered the victory-bearing Sign of the Cross of the Lord, and also wanted to find the actual Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For this purpose he sent his own mother, the holy Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, granting her both power and money. Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem and St Helen began the search, and through the will of God, the Life-Creating Cross was miraculously discovered in 326. (The account of the finding of the Cross of the Lord is found under the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, September 14). The Orthodox Church commemorates the Uncovering of the Precious Cross and the Precious Nails by the Holy Empress Helen on March 6.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN MAY



Holy Pascha

May 01



St. Irene

May 05



St. Thomas

May 08



St. John the Theologian

May 08



The relics of St. Nicholas

May 09



St. Isidore

May 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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Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers every Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m.

May 07, 21, and 28 (not 14th)

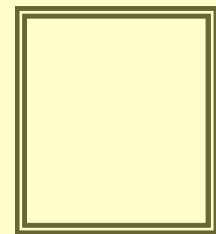
Sun, May 01: Paschal Vespers, Noon
 Wed, May 04: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.;
 Bright Wednesday
 Sun, May 08: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.;
 St. Thomas
 Sat, May 14: Vespers is cancelled
 Sun, May 15; Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Sun, May 22: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; **Visit**
of Archbishop Nikon
 Wed, May 25: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.;
 Mid-Pentecost
 Sun, May 29: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

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

May 01: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE
May 08: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO
May 15: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
May 22: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS
May 29: Roland LLUPA / Edu SERA

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