

# THE ORTHODOX POST

April 2017

Volume XIII, Issue 4



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432  
 Web site: [www.stnicholasalbanian.org](http://www.stnicholasalbanian.org) E-mail: [fr.nathan@stnicholasalbanian.org](mailto:fr.nathan@stnicholasalbanian.org) Tel: (718) 380-5684

St. Nicholas Church invites you to experience the joy and peace of Christ's great resurrection. As Christian people, our lives circle around those experiences we get to share together: prayer, song, and the pageantry of celebration. Please take the time to join in, take the time to accept and to share in this welcome that is not ours alone, but comes from God Himself—He Who is, He Who loves, and He Who greets all people as His own.

Paschal Service Schedule	Orari i Pashkëve
<u>April</u>	<u>Prill</u>
<b>Fri. 7 - Compline, 7pm: St. Lazarus</b>	<b>Të premte 7 - Komplin, 7PM: Shën Llazari</b>
<b>Sat. 8 - Liturgy, 10am: Lazarus Saturday</b> - Vespers, 5pm	<b>Të shtunë 8 - Liturgji, 10AM: Sheën Llazari</b> - Mbrëmësorja, 5PM
<b>Sun. 9 - Liturgy, 10am: Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Të diel 9 - Liturgji, 10AM: E diela e dafinave</b>
<b>Mon. 10 - Bridegroom Matins, 7pm</b>	<b>Të hënë 10 - Mëngjesorja, 7PM: Shërbesa e Dhëndërit</b>
<b>Tue. 11 - Bridegroom Matins, 7pm</b>	<b>Të martë 11 - Mëngjesorja, 7PM: Shërbesa e Dhëndërit</b>
<b>Wed. 12 - Holy Unction, 7pm</b>	<b>Të mërkurë 12 - Misteri i Efqlisë, 7PM</b>
<b>Thur. 13 - Liturgy, 10am: Last Supper</b> - Passion Gospels, 7pm	<b>Të enjte 13 - Liturgjia e Vasilit, 10AM: Darka mistike</b> - 12 Ungjijtë, 7PM
<b>Fri. 14 - Tomb Prayers, noon</b> - Lamentations, 7pm	<b>Të premte 14 - Lutjet në Varr, 12PM</b> - Shërbesa e epitafit, 7PM
<b>Sat. 15 - Liturgy, 10am: Holy Saturday</b> - Great and Holy Pascha, 11:30pm - Festal Shared Meal, 1:30am	<b>Të shtunë 15 - Liturgjia e Vasilit, 10AM: E shtuna e madhe</b> - Ceremonia e Ngjalljes, 11:30PM - Darkë Festiv Përbashkët
<b>Sun. 16 - Paschal Vespers, noon</b>	<b>Të diel 16 - Mbrëmësorja, 12PM: Pashka e madhe</b>

## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

## Holy Week at St. Nicholas

Lazarus Saturday (Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am)

A taste of joy in advance, we recall Jesus' devotion to his friends today and His lived-out promise to help them and us. In recalling Lazarus from the tomb, Christ extends His hand to one whom He loved, showing Himself the possessor of that mighty and unbreakable love for which He will die and rise.

Palm Sunday (Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>)

The children lead us. With palms of honor and victory, they show us how to greet that King of All who has made His way into our midst. Yet these are also the palms of martyrdom, presaging that the triumphal entry of our Lord is not an event of worldly victory alone, for the spiritual work of endurance and suffering and return is yet to come.

We rest on this day between the austerities of the great fast and the joyful sorrows of Holy Week.

Bridegroom Matins (Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm)

These services, which at St. Nicholas we do on Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, offer a quiet hour of contemplation. Before an icon of Christ the Bridegroom (Dhëndëri), we pray for forgiveness and unity with God. This bridegroom, however, is fitted with a crown of thorns to marry us, His people. His hands encircled with a rope of bondage, a ring to betroth us. His wedding garment one of mockery that will be torn from His body to be the gambled stake for a game of dice. Christ celebrates the banquet of His betrothal to His people with a feast of tears and vinegar, toasted with jeers and contemptuous laughter.

Holy Unction (Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm)

This sacrament of our faith is prescribed for any time of the year; we pray these prayers of anointing when any of our

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Paschal Service Schedule &amp; Pastor's Message</i>	1
<i>Cont. of Pastor's &amp; President's Message</i>	2
<i>Coffee List, Corner &amp; Comm. News</i>	3
<i>Pictures</i>	4
<i>April Name Days</i>	5
<i>Merchant Ads</i>	6-7
<i>Major Events &amp; Ushers' Sunday Schedule</i>	8

faith community suffers grave illness. Performed, when possible, with the ministrations of at least seven priests, this is a great and powerful witness of the care with which we are supposed to approach sickness and suffering. In Holy Week, confronted by the overwhelming frailty of our souls and the profound sickness of the sins in which we dwell and persist, this anointing with holy oil gives us hope that we, too, can learn to see beyond our spiritual sickness and look toward the wholeness of lives given over to Christ.

*Holy Thursday Liturgy* (Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am)

On this morning, we recall the Last Supper, that meal wherein Christ instituted the practice of Holy Communion but also and at the same time noted the betrayal and end that would come by the hand of one of his closest friends—Judas Iscariot. During this Liturgy, we prepare and set aside the Holy Communion that is kept in reserve throughout the year so that the sick and dying, those unable to come from their homes or rise from their beds, all may receive the Holy Body and Blood of Christ offered from His table, from His Holy and Final Supper.

*The Passion Gospels* (Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm)

With these twelve Gospel readings, we make pilgrimage through Christ's final hours. From betrayal to judgment to death, we witness the tragedy of His end but see and seek still a bright preparation for what is yet to come. This simple service of hymns and readings ushers us into Good Friday, brings us near to the place where He will be laid down and from which He will arise.

*Tomb Prayers* (Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> at noon)

When the place has been prepared—decked with the flowers and ribbons that indicate our love—Christ is placed in the tomb. His body taken down from the Cross is wrapped in its shroud, and the epitaph comes to rest in the heart of the Church. There it lays, as a seed planted in the earth, something dead, something yet to come.

*Lamentations* (Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm)

This is the funeral of the Lord. Chanting our grief, we pay our last respects, anoint His body with incense and sweet-scented perfume—the aroma of our tears and content of our

hopes. Carrying the bier around the Church three times, we encircle our temple, our home, marking it as the place where God Himself rests, tracing in outline the place whence He will spring from and return.

*Holy Saturday Liturgy* (Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am)

A preamble to that joy that is yet to come, this service indicates the turning point in the saga of passion week. We sense the deep rumbling of time and nature as the descended Christ encounters those depths hidden to us. The dead, hearing the voice of their Master, are freed; the spirit of evil flees as every dark place burns with the light of God. Tasting the presence of God in communion, we strew fragrant herbs throughout the Church to welcome and honor His ascent and re-entrance.

**Great and Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts** (Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30pm)

Arriving into that darkness that is not oppressive but incipient, we behold the holy fire come to greet us, symbol of the unquenchable flame of faith. But this fire is only the start of our rejoicing. Christ returns, and all of creation is made new. Christ returns, and the past slips away covering our fear. Christ returns, and we have cause to hope, to sing, to taste again the sweetness of His renewing presence. In His body and blood, in His story and image, He chooses to make His home with us. Do not reject this invitation, leaving before the feast has begun but stay with the holy fire burning on your candle and in your heart, stay to receive Holy Communion on this holiest day of all year and all of time.

*Paschal Vespers* (Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> at noon)

Warmed by Christ, we inaugurate a new life with Him. On this evening of the first day, the Resurrection commences a new way of being for all; raised with Christ, all is being perfected. With voices made joyful in the knowledge of the risen God, we proclaim the Gospel in as many tongues as we can, letting the news of this Pascha resound in our Church, in our lives, and in the whole world.

## President's Message

by Jim Liolin

### Special Times are Upon Us.....

On April 2nd the Annual General Meeting will be held after liturgy. There are several important programs that will be covered and we need everyone to attend.

Those issues are:

- The restoration and Beautification of the Church Temple. After almost 47 years there will be a new look. We want you to review what is being planned and the Council wants your comments. The history will remain but now it's time for us to add a new testament to our commitment to God and the parish. Come and be a part of this important event in our lives.
- 75th anniversary on Sept. 12, 1943, the members chose the name of St. Nicholas for the first parish

thy established in NY and Peter Stassa had the honor of being Kumbare. In 2018 we will celebrate the 75 Year Milestone. In addition to these major issues we have our regular items that we need to address. You are members of the parish and we need your participation.

### Pascha is Here....

April 9 is Palm Sunday and we will have the annual pancake breakfast. The Daughters of St. Nicholas always prepare a wonderful meal that we can share together. Please join in the community's annual event. April 10<sup>th</sup> Holy Week begins leading us to Pascha. Please read the letter from the Church and follow the schedule of services.

Looking forward to seeing you at the General Meeting and in Church before, during and after Pascha.

# 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

- April 02 - Memorial  
 09 - Pancake Breakfast  
 16 - Pascha  
 23 - Diana Beno/Beti Tsamblakos  
 30 - Open
- May 07 - Fjona Fundo/Suzana Fundo  
 14 - Mother's Day  
 21 - Linda Foundos /Elizabeth Liolin  
 28 - Open

## Daughters' Corner & Community News

by Linda Foundos

Our Lenten season is well underway, and Holy Pascha is just weeks away. We hope you have been increasing your religious practices in preparation. On Sunday, April 9th, Palm Sunday, the Daughters will host our annual Pancake Breakfast. We would love to have you join us. It's always a delicious treat!

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Barbara Papalexis on the falling asleep in the Lord of her father **Thomas Reed**. He is survived by his wife, Marion, children, Barbara, Ellen, Peggy and Tommy, their spouses, 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. This beautiful, loving family has countless wonderful memories to cherish of their beloved Thomas Reed.

We've not seen Tom Straczynski in quite some time due to his mobility issues; however, Tom has reached out to let us know how fondly he thinks of our St. Nicholas community after having met us some 30 years ago. It is so common for us to take so many things and people for granted; but when the going gets tough and it's no long accessible to you, you realize how much you miss it. It was so kind of Tom to contact us to let us know how much he misses us! We send our warm regards to Tom! And to so many others that we have been missing. Please don't think that we've forgotten you; we have not!! We send our best wishes to all of you.

## General Parish Meeting - Save the Date

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, after Liturgy



Come and Get Involved

### Participate in Important Church Business

- Sunday School & Religious Education
- Events & Programs
- Fundraising Plans
- Financial Review
- Archdiocese & OCA News

## Photos from March Service Events



Memorial Prayer for Fan Noli, March 12<sup>th</sup>



The Sunday of the Cross, March 19<sup>th</sup>



The Icon Procession on Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 5<sup>th</sup>

## APRIL NAME DAYS



April 8<sup>th</sup> – The Raising of St. Lazarus

Larry Jance



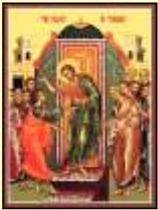
April 15<sup>th</sup> – St. Leonidas – Bishop of Athens

Leonard Ndreu



April 23<sup>rd</sup> – St. Adalbert of Prague

Albert Vani



April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Antipascha(in place of pascha) - St. Thomas Sunday

Tomi Beno, Thomaq Fundo, Thomas Fundo



April 23<sup>rd</sup> – The Holy Great Martyr George, the Victory-Bearer

George Beno, Jorgo Celo, Jorgji Coka, Georgianne Kasuli, Gjergj Klimi, Orges Llupa, Gjergji Terova, George Vangjel



April 25<sup>th</sup> – The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark

Mark Papalexis, Mark Chenoweth

If we missed you name this month, please let us know.  
Nese nuk e kemi emrin tuaj per kete muaj ju lutemi te na tregoni.

## *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!!!**

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**Major Church Activities and Events**April

- Sat. 1 - Health Prayers, 5pm  
 Sun. 2 - Liturgy, 10am  
     - Pan-Orthodox Vesper, 5pm  
 Wed. 5 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm  
 Fri. 7 - Compline, 7pm: St. Lazarus  
 Sat. 8 - Liturgy, 10am: St. Lazarus  
     - Vespers, 5pm  
 Sun. 9 - Liturgy, 10am: Palm Sunday  
     - Children's Palm Procession  
     - Pancake Breakfast  
 \*\*\*Holy Week\*\*\*  
 Mon. 10 - Bridegroom Matins, 7pm  
 Tue. 11 - Bridegroom Matins, 7pm  
 Wed. 12 - Holy Unction, 7pm  
 Thur. 13 - Liturgy, 10am: Last Supper  
     - Passion Gospels, 7pm  
 Fri. 14 - Tomb Prayers, noon  
     - Lamentations, 7pm  
 Sat. 15 - Vespertal Liturgy, 10am: Harrowing of Hades  
     - Great and Holy Pascha, 11:30  
     - Paschal Feast, 1:30am  
 Sun. 16 - Paschal Vespers, noon  
 Sat. 22 - Vespers, 5pm  
 Sun. 23 - Liturgy, 10am: Sts. Thomas and George  
 Sat. 29 - Vespers, 5pm  
 Sun. 30 - Liturgy, 10am: Myrrhbearers

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

**APR 02 Stefan BALTADORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS**

**APR 09 Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE**

**APR 16 Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO**

**APR 23 Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE**

**APR 30 Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS**

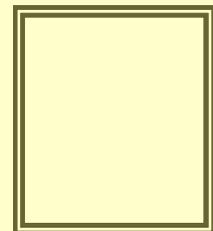
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