

THE ORTHODOX POST

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St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432
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Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Dear Friends,

Greetings to all of you and, for many, welcome back from time away. This fall, we will be taking a few more steps in making our education programs here, the best they can be.

We have new teachers joining the already strong team, and we have plans to make the rooms better. I invite everyone to come especially on September 10th to hear some of our youth talk about their experiences at summer camp, and to sign up children for Sunday School. After the Liturgy, we will have a kick-off party at the L. Foundos home. On Sunday, September 17th, we will continue with a special meeting with parents after Liturgy. During this time, our teachers will be busy getting their rooms and classes prepared. We will send out a special announcement with more details about classes and activities.

For the adults, we will begin an Adult Study on

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Tuesday, September 28th, at 7:30 p.m. We will be studying *The Orthodox Way*, by Bishop Kallistos Ware. And, for twenty-somethings, we will be meeting again soon. Also, many people have asked me about the book and the movie, *The Da Vinci Code*. Copies of a good, solid article by a leading Orthodox theologian addressing some of the issues are available at Church. Maybe this article can be of help.

Pray for me,
Your friend,
Fr. David

President's Message

By Bill Peters

Here we are again, at the beginning of a new church year!!!

As you can see from the articles in this issue of *The Orthodox Post*, much has been going on and much more activity at St. Nicholas is ahead of us.

It is important for the growth of our church community that we all take an active part in the life of the Parish. In addition to attending services, supporting the efforts of our Sunday School by faithfully bringing your children to

church on Sundays and participating in Adult Education sessions; we should keep informed of the business life of our Parish. Reading and contributing to our monthly newsletter, *The Orthodox Post*, is one way. An additional way, is to attend the Parish's General Meetings.

On Sunday, September 24th after Liturgy, in the Fellowship Hall, we will be holding our Parish's Semi-Annual General Meeting. We will be discussing the church's plans for the year, church programs, our finances and Archdiocese news.

**PLAN ON ATTENDING THE PARISH MEETING,
YOU WILL FEEL BETTER FOR DOING SO!!!!**

Daughters of St. Nicholas

By Christina Liolin

After a long summer break, the Daughters will be gearing up for a busy fall. The first meeting of the church year will be on Sunday, September 17th, after liturgy. Several items need to be discussed:

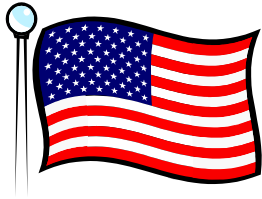
- Review calendar for balance of the year
- Date for Bake/Rummage Sale

- Set up committee for Memorial Saturday list review
- Coffee List
- Review memorial check list and activities
- Sunday School assistance

Please make very effort to attend because there is a lot of work to do and we need everyone to help. Don't wait to be asked to do something. It is always so much nicer to hear "What can I do to help."

Remember: Daughters' Meeting, Sunday, September 17th.

Albanian-American National Organization (AANO)



60th Anniversary Celebration in Tirana

By Linda Foundos

A dream became a reality when the AANO held its annual convention for the first time in Albania hosted by the New York and Clearwater Chapters!!! Over 350 people from America made the journey, most visiting the home of their forefathers for the first time. It was an exciting, emotional and fun trip never to be forgotten. The festivities officially began on Wednesday, August 2nd with a Welcome Reception by the Minister of Tourism. Over the next few days people went on day tours to Skenderbeg's Castle in Kruja, Voskopoja, Korce, Bilishti, Butrint Archeological Site and to the Children's Home of Hope near Durres. During the day, people enjoyed the beautiful pool at the Rogner Europapark Hotel, and strolled the streets filled with great shops and cafes. There was a seminar on "Investing in Albania"; there was a handicraft and art fair, a premier showing of the documentary film "Land of Eagles." In the afternoon, a lovely Welcome Reception at the Piazza Restaurant was held with great music and dancing. On Friday evening a buffet dinner was held with President Moisiu as our guest speaker followed by dancing to The Prifti Brothers Band. On Saturday evening a wonderful banquet was held with Prime Minister Berisha as our honored guest.

The last official evening of the convention ended with a bus trip to Durres to the Adriatik Hotel for a wonderful dinner, a beautiful show with song and dance followed by a DJ and dancing on the beach! What a special evening!!! Many people spent days before or after the convention visiting with family and other travel including Saranda, Himara and neighboring countries. For all those who made the journey, this convention far exceeded their expectations. They were so happy to get in touch with their ethnic roots. It was a huge success. The people, the food, the warm hospitality, the music and dance were great. The local people were clearly excited to have us, especially using our Albanian language skills such as they are. They were amazed that so many of us born in America still maintain the language. Many wonderful memories were made, old friendships rekindled and new ones made.

The Albanian-American National Organization is a non-political, non-religious organization whose goals are to offer scholarships for students of Albanian descent, perpetuate our ethnic identity in America and Canada, develop friendships and instill pride in our Albanian roots. There are currently 9 chapter cities with possibilities of adding others.



OUR 9th ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING IS HERE

By Albert Foundos

Remember last year's outing? It was great! For those of you who participated last year and had a great time, and also those of you who did not and missed a great outing, we would be pleased to have you join us on Monday, September 25, 2006 when we will be holding our *9th Annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing* at the *Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course*. This is an exceptional golf course with challenging holes and beautiful views.

We start with registration in the morning and Tee-off at noon striking that little magic white ball hoping it goes where we wish, but frequently in another direction. As we move along in good company we have hamburgers at the pit stop and continue on wishing to hit the Hole-in-One and win a BMW. After a beautiful round of golf, then we proceed at the 19th Hole at the Woodlands Restaurant in the Clubhouse; followed by a great dinner, prizes/awards and the grand raffle. The results of all this is a great day and evening and a great fundraiser for our Church

We are reaching out for your participation and/or signing up your friends and relatives to join us at this year's event and ask that for a wonderful and fun-filled day. The cost to golf, lunch and dinner is **\$650.00 for a foursome** or **\$175.00** per person. We also want to encourage you to solicit sponsors for *hole sponsorships for \$250.00*, and/or *prize/merchandise sponsorships for \$100-\$300* for the raffle, which helps raise funds for our church programs.

We do hope that you will participate and invite your friends to join us. Registration/sponsorship forms available in the office or any committee member. Please make an effort to help and respond early so we can plan to accommodate everyone.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any one of the members listed, or call 516-520-5227 and ask for Donna or Cathy

The Committee: Phil Foundos – Jim Oswald, Co-Chairmen,

Tomi Beno, Al Foundos, Mark Papalexis, Lou Foundos & George Kelapire.

FOR SALE PARISH VAN



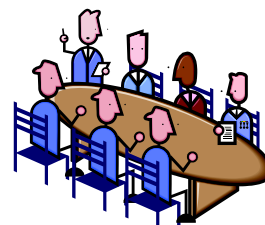
INTERESTED IN BUYING THE VAN ???

CONTACT:

BILL PETERS, PETRIKA TROJA

OR LOU FOUNDOS

THE PARISH GENERAL MEETING SUN, SEPT 24 – AFTER LITERGY



**COME AND TAKE PART
IN THE LIFE & BUSINESS OF THE PARISH**

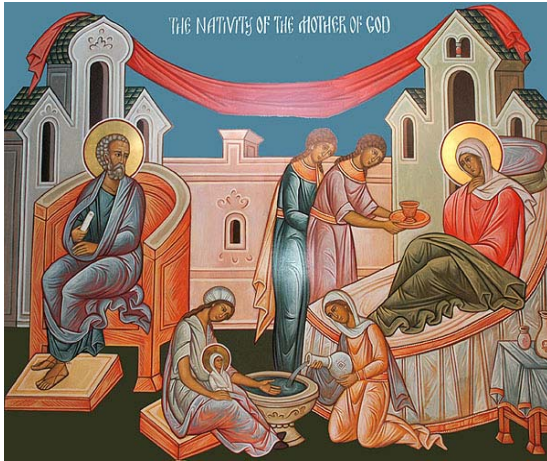
Community News

By Linda Foundos

- Wedding bells are in the air for the newly engaged daughter of Mimosa & Kosta Grazhdani, Valbona, to Drilon. Our best wishes to the happy couple and their families as they make their wedding plans. Congratulations!
- Congratulations to Tina & Robert Korra who are now living in their new home in Bergenfield, New Jersey. Robert, together with some help, personally completely renovated the house. We wish them much happiness in their new home.
- Good luck to Alba Topollaj who will be attending University of Pennsylvania this fall studying International Relations after graduating from Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan. Her parents Mylinda & Mark Topollaj are very proud of her.
- On Sunday, August 20th a three-year memorial service was held to remember Gus Kallinikos, Jim Zacharias and John Nasi. The three good buddies and pillars of St. Nicholas all died within months of each other. They left us with many wonderful memories and are greatly missed.
- "Good for you" Enea Topore who worked for the summer as a computer technician. He learned a lot and enjoyed it as well! Enea will be a senior this fall. What a great experience to be exposed to the workplace, learn discipline, responsibility, teamwork, becoming an adult, getting along with others and earning some money too!! Part time or summer work during school is a great way to help decide on a career choice. Adrianna & Andrea are very proud of their son.
- Hesonja Troja had a fabulous summer visiting with Eli Troja's sister in Barletta, Italy. Hesonja especially enjoyed the Mediterranean sun and beach, the delicious food and great shopping. She also helped her aunt move into a new home. Ciao til next time!!
- Anita and Kris Kutali enjoyed 2 months in Albania! Their parents, Andrea & Sylvana, joined them for 3 weeks. They had a great time vacationing in Tirana and Vlora, visiting with family and friends.
- May God bless Daniella Elizabeth Beno who was baptized on August 3rd at the Kisha Katedrale e Ungjillizimet in Tirana, Albania!! What a very special ceremony and lovely reception. The proud parents, Christine & Tomi Beno are grateful for the loving Godparents, Donna & Jim Oswald. Congratulations also to the grandparents, Joan & Al Foundos, and Diana & Dhimitir Beno.
- Mother and daughter, Barbara & Alison Papalexis spent a wonderful week in the Bahamas.....sun, fun and a little casino. Not too much fun, however, since the rest of the family, Mark, Laura & Gregory were in Albania for the Albanian-American National Organization 60th Anniversary Convention.
- Irma, Ardian, Iris & Angela Mile had a super time in Virginia Beach. Nothing says "summer" like a beach vacation.
- Oneda, Edi, Ediona, Christiana, Adelina & Roland Llupa spent a great week in Cape Cod. A great time was had by all. What a great place, and not that far from home!
- Several of our St. Nicholas parishioners journeyed to Albania for the AANO convention in Tirana.....Pauline Logore, Dhimitir Beno Family, Tomi Beno Family, Jim Liolin Family, Mark Papalexis Family, Jim Oswald Family, Al Foundos Family and Lou Foundos Family. Many other friends from New York also attended and made a wonderful vacation around the convention. (see Convention article)
- Our own Christina Liolin wears many hats. In addition to serving as President of the Daughters of St. Nicholas and caring for her family, she is the Human Resources Manager for Vanguard Direct by day and an agent for CruiseOne as well. When Chris learned of the AANO convention in Albania, the idea came to her of incorporating a Mediterranean cruise to the journey. With Chris' coordination, Jim Liolin Family, Lou Foundos Family, Jim Oswald Family and Jim's niece Carol Lundquist and son Eric cruised from Venice to Piraeus, Myconos, Rhodes and Dubrovnik. The time spent on the Royal Caribbean ship and our port dockings was beautiful. Perhaps for Kimberly, Daniel and Alex, the best part might have been climbing to the top of the rock wall and ringing the bell!
- Bravo to three more graduates whose families are very proud of them and their wonderful accomplishment. We wish them all the best as they make their way out into the world.....Ina Pecani from Pace University, Kleidi Pecani from Pace University & Erblina Sava from Baruch College (or University).

This Month's Major Feast Days

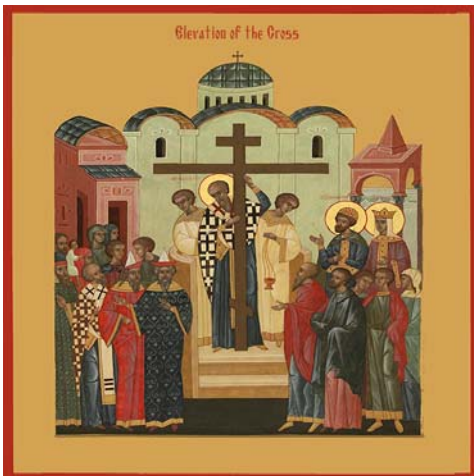
The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary – September 8



The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness. The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age. They vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple. Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless. St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child.

St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World. The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross – September 14



The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great after he became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire (323). Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem. Although the holy empress was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. They demolished the pagan temple of Venus and began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body. In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross

of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found. Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326. The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Mother of God was buried after her death. St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established. In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, St Andrew of Crete says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".

Major Church Activities and Events

- Wed, Sept 7:** Vesperal Liturgy - "Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady & Mother of God" (Sept 8)
7:00 pm
- Sun, Sept 10:** Youth Presentation of Summer Camp and Church School Outing
(After Liturgy)
- Wed, Sept 13:** Vesperal Liturgy – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross" (Sept 14)
7:00 pm
- Sun, Sept 17:** Church School Registration and a Parent-Teachers Meeting And, a Meeting of The Daughters of St. Nicholas
(After Liturgy)
- Sun, Sept 24:** Parish General Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
(After Liturgy)
- Mon, Sept 25:** Annual Golf Outing at Oyster Bay Golf Course
(am – pm)
- Tues, Sept 28:** Adult Study "The Orthodox Way"
7:30 pm
- Tues, Oct 3:** Parish Council Meeting
7:30 pm

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

- Sept 03:** Xhoxhi Coka / Nasi Pavllo
- Sept 10:** Ardian Mile / Thoma Beno
- Sept 17:** Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- Sept 24:** Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- Oct. 01:** Bill Peters / Nick Papjorgji
- Oct. 08:** Petrika Troja / Ilia Luka

**Divine Liturgy will begin
at 10:00 a.m.**

Starting September 10th

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
181-14 Midland Parkway
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code