

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Pastor's Report on
St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
Parish General Meeting -September 23rd, 2007
"For every step we take toward God, He takes a thousand
toward us."

I am blessed to serve as the pastor of St. Nicholas Church during a momentous time. There are many signs of growth since last fall's meeting:

- **Sacramental Growth:** Eight Baptisms (one more next Sunday), five Churchings, two Weddings (2 more coming in the next six months), 5 unctions, increased participation in and attendance of Liturgical Services; 2 Funerals
- Of course, the most ambitious **capital campaign** since the move to Jamaica Estates to add four Sunday school classrooms, a pastor's office, an elevator for the handicapped, and a loft to accommodate more people
- **Adult Educational Growth:** Two semesters (October-December/Great Lent-May) of an adult study, which completed *The Mountain of Silence*

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(Markides) and half of *The Orthodox Way* (Ware), with an average attendance of 12

- **Children's Educational Growth:** Four classes from pre-school-Jr. High, with quality teams of teachers and new and challenging curricula (e.g., *The Way the Truth, the Life* for Jr. High), an Albanian language class (in which children learn [and priest] learn prayers & hymns in Albanian

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President's Message

By Bill Peters (Report at Parish General Meeting)

The good news is that our Church is growing!

However, this growth creates the need for more things to be done to serve the community. Our Parish is small but provides for a great many services and activities. As you know, some of the major things we provide include:

- Liturgy and other services including baptisms, weddings and funerals
- Religious education for both children and adults
- Social and fundraising activities, such as the annual Flea Market & Bake Sale, Golf Outing and Picnic
- Communications through Sunday Bulletins, our monthly newsletter - The Orthodox Post, our own internet website, various meetings, and many letters and flyers.

To be successful in handling the growth of the Parish, it is important to:

- Get more people involved in religious education
- Get more people working for church activities
- Increase the amount of financial support from existing and new members

Right now we are facing two major challenges that we must work very hard to care for. They are:

- Our Fundraising Program to make possible our Building Expansion Project &
- Our Annual Pledge Program to pay for our operating expenses to run the church

We have a lot of work to do. I am optimistic that the community will work together to meet these very important needs of our Church and its parishioners.

We need everyone's help to be successful!

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By Adelina Llupa

Po japim nje lutje per shenjtoen Theotokos, dhe nje pjese nga vjersha "Gjuha Shqipe" e Asdrenit:

O, e tereshenjteruara Zonja Theotokos, drita e shpirtit tim te erresuar, shpresa, streha, shpetimtarja ime, ngushellimi dhe gezimi im; te falenderoj qe, megjithese nuk jam mjaft I denje, Ti me ke dhene mundesine te marr pjese nga trupi I paster dhe nga gjaka I cmuar I birit tend. Ti qe linde driten e vertete, me ndrico syte e zemres sime; O Ti qe mbajte burimin e pavdekese, me shpeto nga mekati. O Nene shume e dashur e Zotit mekatar, ki meshire per mua, dhe me jep perulje dhe pendim te zemres, qetesi te mendimeve te mija dhe shkeputje nga lidhja e imagjinatave te kota. Dhe me bej te denje, deri ne frymen e fundit, te marr pa denim shenjterimin e Mistereve te pastra, deri ne sherimin e shpirtit dhe trupit. Dhe perms loteve te pendimit, me jep mundesine tw te thur hymned he lavdi tere jeten time; sepse e bekuar dhe e nderuar je Ti per jete. Amin.

Gjuha Shqipe Asdreni

...Lavdi ne shekuj patsh, o gjuhe shqipe,
Lavdi per ty qe jete merr te re,
Me tingllin tend te kandshem kulmin hipe
Nder shoqet sot krenare zen'e mpreh.

Ti je thesari prindrit qe na lane;
Si Leka, Burri, pas dhe cdo luftar,
Ner kenge e valle zonjat hi rte dhane;
Me tyn'u mburr pellazku milenar.

The Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

Fall is underway with a host of activities. The function of the "Daughters" is to work side by side with our Parish Council to facilitate the workings of St. Nicholas. Even when it is not a Daughters function per se, we still step up to support St. Nicholas activities. Our church very successfully sponsored its 10th annual Golf Outing on September 24th. A few of the Daughters supported that as well. In addition to our Sunday liturgy, there are church services that are held for special holy days sometimes with the breaking of bread, the Daughters support those too. The Daughters take care of hospitality needs and help the Sunday School on some matters. Volunteers are also needed to make "meshe" for our services. From time to time, volunteers are needed to do sewing repairs on altar robes. Attending to the varied needs of St. Nicholas requires a number of talents. Please try to pitch in and make it "your" church. There are a variety of activities throughout the year which need your support.

The Daughters next major function is our annual Flea Market/Bake Sale which is scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, October 27th & 28th. Please search your home for those unwanted, unused items that you would like to donate for sale. Please make certain that they are in good, clean & working condition. We will be asking for volunteers for pricing, setting up, working the sale weekend, baking, etc. You may begin bringing your items Sunday, October 14th. Get involved. It's actually a fun and worthwhile experience. One of the best ways to get better acquainted is to work together. You'll be rewarded with stronger relationships. This is YOUR church, be an active part of it.

We look forward to having as many women as possible getting involved. We welcome you to come with new ideas and energy. With such a growing community, there are so many wonderful programs we can have.

If you or someone you know would like to be included in our rotation of hosting our Coffee Hour, please contact Christina Liolin.

Bake Sale & Flea Market

October 27th & 28th



Our annual event will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 27th (10am–5pm) & 28th (12–4pm).

We urge you to get involved, participate in any number of ways. You can donate items for sale, donate baked goods, help with the preparation of the sale, work the weekend of the sale, or make a financial contribution to help defray some of our costs.

When you select items to bring in please follow the guidelines below:

- We will be accepting gently used clothing only. Please be sure that the clothes you bring in are clean, in good condition and not torn.
- You may bring in new and/or gently used household items on a limited basis. Please do not bring in furniture or anything that is in bad condition or broken.
- Books are welcome.
- Items will be accepted from October 15th up to Wednesday, October 24th. We ask that you do not bring in anything outside of these dates as it is very difficult for us to store them.

Sunday School News



After a very successful pool party to rally both parents and children into the Sunday school year we are re-energized and excited about this school year. We have very dedicated and wonderful teachers who are excited about this year's curriculum.

We are trying very hard to encourage all children who attend church to please join us for Sunday school.

After communion all children are welcome to come down stairs to the fellowship hall and have a little snack before heading off for a 30 minute Sunday school lesson.

Kerri Fox teaches kindergarten - second grade
 - Barbara Duggan teaches third and fourth grade
 - Grace Holinski teaches fifth and sixth grade
 - Alexandra Liolin and Joanne Heiser team teach seventh –high school.

Adelina Llupa teaches Albanian class every other Sunday at 12:00

We are looking for a few parents who would be interested in coming to assist our classes or to arrange some social activities for our youth. If you have any interest in helping the Sunday school out in anyway please see any of the teachers after class. Any and all help would be appreciated.

Take note of our attendance chart hanging on the wall down to get your coffee. We are going to reward the students with both wonderful attendance and great participation. One student per class throughout the year will be receiving such rewards. Also take note of the beautiful pictures Adelina has hung up with names of her students on each. The fifth and sixth graders will be displaying their timeline of the church as they go through the year. Great things are happening here at Saint Nicholas!!

ST. VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY

ORTHODOX EDUCATION DAY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6th

Theme: Our Church: Her Mission and Her Future. It is an opportunity to discover the seminary, to celebrate an outdoor Liturgy, to receive spiritual nourishment, to be uplifted by beautiful choral music, and to fellowship with hundreds of fellow believers. Orthodox Education Day 2007 offers workshops and activities for many interests and age groups.

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- **Liturgical growth:** the hiring of Pastoral Assistant, the Reader Nathan Preston (9/07), who will be: training adults to sing in the choir, training children to sing Orthodox hymns, training readers to read during Liturgy, training adult and altar boy servers to serve in the altar; the 'maximization' of Sunday morning
- **Personal Spiritual growth:** leaders, those preparing for Baptism, Marriage engaged in study, exploration, counseling
- **The renewal of a grant** to fund English language classes and basic needs courses, the creation of a Grant Director, a member of the Board who will be investigating feasibility of our acquisition of grants
- **Gifts:** The acquisition of a magnificent hand-written Incarnation Icon by an Albanian member, and the stated desire to bequeath many Saints relics to the parish

Challenges:

- **Pastoral care needs:** what should our pastoral care look like in five years? (a help for now: hiring of Reader Nathan Preston)
- **Building Space & Location:** travel, congestion of traffic, cost tolls, gas, time for people working hard (Solution for now: Maximize Sundays with a tight schedule of readers, servers training/ Liturgy/Education/Choir Rehearsals Children and Adult all from 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.); Space (Solution: Capital Campaign)
- **Community:** Language? Culture? How can people really know (and care) for each other? (Solution: Mixer or service events, such as SS picnic, Bazaar, others?)
- **Participation:** How can we get everyone involved, maximize each one's God-given gifts? How to deepen participation in those already serving? (Solution for now: the ask for each to participate in the Capital campaign)
- **Servanthood:** Mission-focused (looking outside ourselves): Whom are we called to serve? Where is the need?

I believe our parish offers real spiritual meat for those searching for God; we are trying, slowly, humbly to 'set the table' for those who wish to come to eat.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. David Rodney Fox, Pastor

Fall Schedule at St. Nicholas**Sundays**

9:15–9:30 a.m.: Readers Training: Reader Nathan Preston meets with and trains anyone who wishes to read in the Liturgy. Fr. David and servers begin Entrance Prayers for the Liturgy.

9:30 a.m.: Readers begin either Hours of Prayer or Matins Prayers. Fr. David and Servers begin Prayers of Preparation for the Liturgy (Proskimide)

9:45 a.m.: Servers' Training: Reader Nathan meets with and trains anyone who wishes to serve in the altar. Ushers arrive, Choir arrive and go over music for the day

10–11:30: Divine Liturgy

11:15–11:45: Children's Sunday School

11:45: Coffee Fellowship

11:45–12 noon: Children's Choir/Priest–Children time. In Nave upstairs (church). Reader Nathan Meets with Children to learn Orthodox music, hymns (3 weeks)/or Fr. David meets with children (1 week)

12 noon–12:30 p.m.: Adult Choir rehearsal in Nave.

12 noon–12:20 p.m.: Albanian Language Class with Adelina Llupa (Every other week, downstairs).

Tuesday Nights: Adult Education

Beginning Tuesday, October 9th, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., we will meet to study two important topics for anyone who desires to know God: What or WHO is the Holy Spirit? And, what is prayer? We will resume with using **The Orthodox Way** by Bishop Kallistos. If you need a book, please see Peter Panajoti.

Children's Choir

One of the best ways to learn our faith is to learn how to sing it. So many great prayers are put to music and more easily remembered. Beginning Sunday, October 7th, from 11:45–12 noon, the Reader Nathan Preston will be working with our children to help them learn some basic Orthodox hymns and tones.

Adult Choir

What is good for the children is good for us: we can learn a lot about our faith by singing it. Orthodox hymns and music are beautiful and deep, and with practice, can help us grow in faith, both individually and as a church. Beginning Sunday, October 7th, the Reader Nathan Preston will begin coaching anyone who wishes to learn how to sing Orthodox hymns. It does not matter whether or not you have ever sung in the choir: this is a rare opportunity to grow in faith.

Community News

By Linda Foundos

- There are pink booties and Pampers in Nevilla & Ivan Kondili's house now!!! On August 22nd at 10:21 p.m. after 12 hours of labor, a 9 lb. baby girl was born, Eva Jacqueline. What joy in the Kondili household for Nevilla & Ivan, ecstatic grandparents Lena & Fotaq Kondili and family! Now all the fun begins with a new life to mold. We know little Eva will be showered with lots of love from all around. All the best. Much happiness to all the family.
- Christian Crosby Elias Preftes Field..... quite a mouthful for a little guy! Christian was welcomed into the world on August 11th in NYC to delightfully happy parents, Katherine & Chris Field. Christian weighed 5 lbs. 10 oz. and was 18 ½ inches long. We wish Christian a very long, healthy and happy life. Congratulations to the proud parents and grandparents, Jean & Christie Preftes. The baby's great-grandfather, Ilia Preftes, was one of the founders of St. Nicholas church. May God bless them all.
- Double blessings for Diane & Stephen Jones and big sisters Mariah and Renee! In Tampa, Florida on August 3rd they were blessed with Sofia Nicole weighing 4 lbs. 5 oz. and Elizabeth Stefanie weighing 4 lbs. 15 oz. Maybe Stephen should get a **male** dog with all those women in the house??? Just kidding.....Stephen is really the "king" of his household. What a beautiful family!! There have been serious health issues for Elizabeth, who remains in the hospital. But thank God, little by little the twins are getting stronger and healthier. Congratulations to the Jones' and to very proud Grandpa Larry Jance and Uncle John Jance. The family is thankful to all their family and friends for their love and support. May God's blessings be upon them all.
- Wedding bells rang on Sunday, September 9th for Beti Beno and Isidoros Tsamblakos. It was a perfect sunshiny day for such happy, fun-filled festivities. Our congratulations to Beti's parents, Diana & Dhimitir Beno, Beti's son George, and all the family.
- Wedding bells rang on Friday, September 14th for Mirela Miraj & Aristole Kondili. The handsome couple was radiant as they took their vows. What a beautiful start to fulfilling all their dreams. Our congratulations to Aristole's parents, Lena & Fotaq Kondili, and all the family.
"We wish for both happy couples that their love will grow and deepen with each passing year. That they will truly become wonderful life partners for each other. That they will trust each other, communicate with each other, be there for each other in good times and bad and make beautiful memories together filled with joy. Te Tashegohen!!!"
- Happy, Happy Anniversary to Marion & Nick Adams, parents of Jana Foundos, as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 15th. Marion was raised on a farm in Burlington, MA and Nick in Summerville, MA. Nick, a retired engineer, is a huge Boston Red Sox fan and great cheerleader at all the sporting events in which his grandchildren participate. Marion is keen on physical fitness and devotes a great deal of her time babysitting her grandchildren. Congratulations to Marion & Nick also on their new home in Melville, Long Island. They spend half the year on Long Island and the other half at their home in West Palm Beach, Florida where they have 2 married sons with families. They certainly are a beautiful couple with a very full life.
- On September 2nd a one year memorial service was held in memory of Aneta Bima, beloved mother of Alma Vesho and aunt of Eli Troja. May her memory be eternal. I Perjetshim Kujtimi.
- On a sad note, memory eternal for Antoinette Echenique who died in Washington state. She had been a member of St. Nicholas some 20 years ago. Antoinette was the sister of Olimbi Nasi. A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for November 11th. Our sympathy to the family.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

BUILDING EXPANSION & FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

REAFFIRMED AT PARISH SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING



At the September 23rd Semi-Annual Parish General Meeting, Parishioners listened to various reports and participated in the religious and administrative business of our St. Nicholas Church. Most important was the review of the pictures and plans for the Building Space Expansion and the related Fundraising Program. A motion was passed approving the increased scope of the project and the Fundraising budget of \$300,000. The Fundraising Program has started with letters mailed to Parishioners. These mailings will be followed-up with calls and visits to parishioners to further explain the Church needs and the different parts of the Building Expansion Project. **Every Parishioner is being asked to commit to a generous donation.**

Other parts of the meeting included reports and discussion dealing with child & adult education, religious spiritual development, Daughters of St. Nicholas, financials & investments, and the annual Pledge Program. Also, delegates (Peter Panajoti and Jim Liolin) were elected to join Fr. David Fox and Bill Peters (President) to represent our Church at the Albanian Archdiocese Annual Assembly on September 27-29 in Worcester, MA.

The Daughters of St. Nicholas announced that the annual **Flea Market and Bake Sale** will be held on Saturday, October 27 and Sunday, October 28. All are invited to participate - as workers, donators of merchandise and buyers of items.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

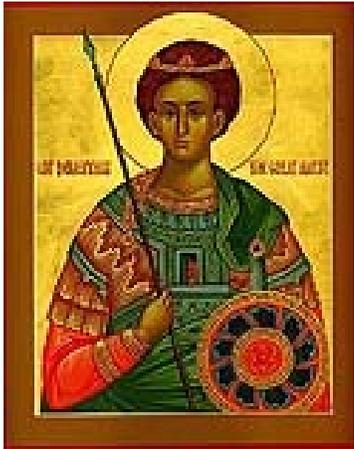
Another successful Golf Outing was held on Monday, September 24th at the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course. It was a beautiful day filled with golf, fun, fellowship, good food and many raffle prizes. Many Parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas participated to support this major fund raiser for the Church. A **"Special Thanks"** to Al Foundos and the event Co-Chairmen: Phil Foundos and Tomi Beno. Also, a thank you to the many men on the Golf Outing Committee who worked so hard. Another thank you is extended to the Ladies who helped out - Linda Foundos, Ruth Malasko, Viola Kallinikos, Cathy Heimbauer and Donna Oswald.

ANNUAL PLEDGE PROGRAM

Toward the end of October, Parishioners will receive the annual Pledge Program letter asking them to make a pledge of money to cover the day-to-day expenses of operating the Church. This pledge is to be paid off during 2008. This Annual Pledge is different than and in addition to the special commitment for the Building Expansion Project. Therefore, it is very Important that each of us maintain and if possible, increase our pledge for 2008. More information will be provided at Church in late October and in November as well as in the November issue of The Orthodox Post.

October's Major Feast days

Holy, Glorious Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica Commemorated on October 26



The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of St Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home. Maximian, confident in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ.

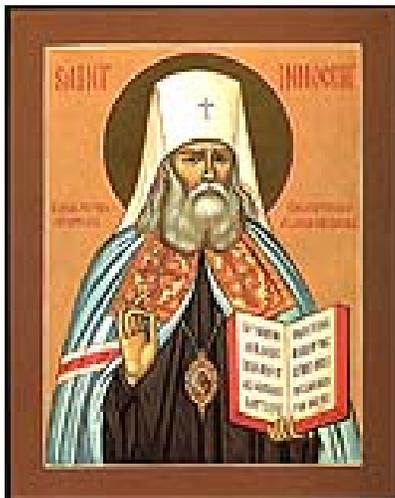
Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica and immediately confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach

the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. The Lord also destined St Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the rage of the emperor knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians. Learning of this, St Demetrius ordered his faithful servant Lupus to distribute his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. An angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him.

At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, St Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of St Demetrius, and he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified by the blood of St Demetrius, St Lupus began to heal the infirm. The emperor issued orders to arrest and kill him. The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

Glorification of St Innocent the Metropolitan of Moscow and Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostle to the Americas Commemorated on October 6



Glorification of St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America, was born on August 26, 1797 in the village of Anginsk in the Irkutsk diocese. The boy mastered his studies at an early age and by age seven, he was reading the Epistle in church. In 1806 they sent him to the Irkutsk seminary. In 1817 he was ordained deacon for the Irkutsk Annunciation church, and in 1821, he was ordained priest. The missionary service of the future Apostle of America and Siberia began with the year 1823.

Father John spent 45 years laboring for the enlightenment of the peoples of Kamchatka, the Aleutian Islands, North America, Yakutsk, the Khabarov frontier, performing his apostolic exploit in severe conditions and at great risks to life. Saint Innocent baptized ten thousand people, and built churches, beside which he founded schools and he himself taught the fundamentals of the Christian life. His knowledge of various crafts and arts aided him in his work.

Father John was a remarkable preacher. During his time of endless travels, Father John studied the languages, customs and habits of the peoples, among whom he preached. His work in geography, ethnography and linguistics received worldwide acclaim. He composed an alphabet and grammar for the Aleut language and translated the Catechism, the Gospel and many prayers into that language. One of the finest of his works was the Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven (1833), translated into the various languages of the peoples of Siberia and appearing in more than 40 editions.

Under the care of Metropolitan Innocent a Missionary Society was created, and the Protection monastery was reorganized for missionary work. In 1870 the Japanese Orthodox Spiritual Mission was set up, to whom St Innocent had shared much of his own spiritual experience. The guidance by St Innocent of the Moscow diocese was also fruitful, by his efforts, the church of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos was built up into the Moscow Spiritual Academy.

Major Church Activities and Events

Meetings & Events:

Sat Oct 6: St. Vladimir Seminary Orthodox Education Day

Tues Oct 9: Adult education, 7 pm

Oct 16: Adult education, 7 pm

Oct 23: Adult education, 7 pm

Oct 30: Adult education, 7 pm

Mon Oct 15 Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

Sat Oct 27 & Sun Oct 28: Bake Sale & Flea Market

Sun Oct 7: A special collection for the poor will be held on the First Sunday of every month. Please plan to give generously every month to those whose lives are less fortunate than ours.

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Oct 7: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

Oct 14: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori

Oct 21: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile

Oct 28: Andrea Kutali / John Jance

Nov 04: Lou Foundos / Robert Kora

Nov 11: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

Nov 18: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka

Nov 25: Petrika / Nasi Pavllo

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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