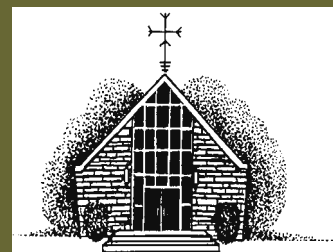


THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Dear Friends,

We have come to Holy Week and Pascha, to the Mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ. Often during this time of year, someone comes out with some news that would contradict Christian facts. I am thankful to my mother, Cindy Fox, who sent me this website regarding a response to this year's supposed finding of the tomb of Christ: http://www.yzine.com/tomb_print.htm. Perhaps it may be of help to you if you are having trouble understanding the issues involved.

Though we never shy away from scientific inquiry, the Church's answer to questions such as these though is ultimately found through the experience of worship, what the great twentieth century Orthodox theologian, Fr. Georges Florovsky called *a transformation of*

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experience. Year by year these rites help us gradually enter more deeply into the reality of the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ. The more we give to them, the more we receive from them.

Below are reflections on the reality of the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ, but in truth, there is nothing to say that takes the place of actually experiencing Holy Week for yourself.

Pastor's Message is continued on page 3

President's Message

By Bill Peters

The Paschal season is upon us!!! We and our families have many opportunities to increase our spiritual involvement in the holiness of Pascha. We can share in the spiritual benefits of the season by participating in Sunday and presanctified liturgies, religious education, fasting, prayer, holy week services and Pascha liturgies. The more we do, the greater will be our personal growth.

Following the Pascha holidays, the Parish will experience a very active schedule of activities. There will be a Parish Council with 5 newly elected members to work with the ongoing Council members and Fr. David to care for the needs of our church community.

As a result of passing the proposal at the March 25th Parish Annual General Meeting to "Provide Building Expansion for Classrooms and Building Improvements," a great deal of effort will be required by all of us to successfully support the project and raise the funds, a total of \$185,000, to pay for this needed project. Another approved proposal "Provides for a Price Increase for Cemetery Plots at Mount Tomori effective July 1st". Parishioners have the opportunity to purchase Plots at the current, lower price prior to July 1st. See page 4 for more details.

On April 21st, we will hold a *St. Nicholas Spring Dinner Dance* at the Fleur de Lis Caterers in Ridgewood. Details are provided in the ad on page 4. Let's make this a social and financial success. Come and Bring your Family and Friends.

BUY YOUR TICKETS & RESERVE A TABLE SOON!!!!

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By Adelina Llupa

Po japim përsëri një pjesë nga poema e Naim Frasherit me titull “Perëndija” marrë nga përmbledhja me poezi “Lulet e Verës”

Perëndija

Ç’sheh është Zot’ i vërtetë,
Ç’dëgjon është zër’ i tija,
Gjithë ç’ka e s’ka në jetë
Është vetë Perëndija.

Mos shiko valëte p’anë
Mos te gënjejë rrëmeti,
Të tëra nje burim kanë
Gjithë ngrihen prej një deti.

Në det’ të math e të gjerë,
Çdo valë që të sheh syri
Atje është det’i tërë,
Po valëtë mirë qyri.

Kur t’a zesh gjënë të bërë,
Është ashtu me të vërtetë,
Po t’a vësh re gjat’ e gjerë,
Është ajy bërësi vetë.

Dhe kush flet, edhe ç’gjë flitet,
Ç’duket e s’duket në jetë,
Dhe kush sheh, dh’ajo që shihet
Zot’ i vërtet’ është vetë.

Sa e gjerë gjithësija,
Që nuk i gjendetë fundi,
Është vetë Perëndija,
Për atë s’ka vënt gjëkund.

Java e Shenjtë dhe Pashka në Kishën Orthodokse të Shën Kollit, 2007

E Shtunë 31 Mars: ora 10 am; Shën Llazari,
Shërbesë Hyjnore

E Djelë 1 Prill: ora 10am; Hyrja e Krishtit në
Jeruzalem (E Djela e Dafinave); Shërbesë
Hyjnore që vazhdon me bekime dafinave
(palmave)

E Hëna e Shenjtë 2 Prill: Vizitë e vecantë në
St. Vladimir Seminar për braitgrum matins; do
te nisemi nga kisha ne orën 6:45pm ose do të
takohemi në orën 7:45 në St. Vladimir

E Merkura e Shenjtë 4 Prill: ora 7 e
mbrëmjes; Kungata me vajin e Shenjtë

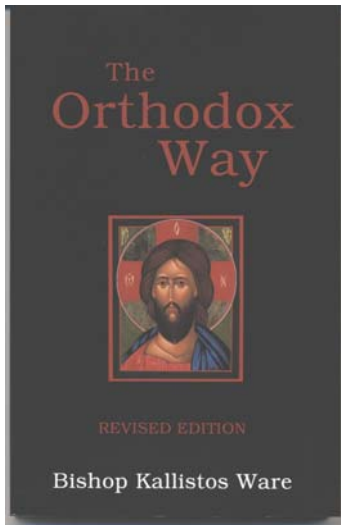
E Enjtja e Shenjtë 5 Prill: ora 7pm;
Mundimet e Shenjta te Krishtit, 12 ungjillet,
dhe Kryqezimi i Krishtit.
(Nuk ka Liturgji te Enjten e Shenjte në
mëngjez)

E Premtja e Shenjtë e Madhe 6 Prill: ora 1 e
darkes; zbritja e Krishtit nga kryqi,
Ora 7 e mbrëmjes; vajtimet pranë
epitafit, ecja rreth Kishës

E Shtuna e Shenjtë 7 Prill: ora 10 am;
Liturgjia e shenje; Në pritje të Ringjalljes;
** Pashka e Shenjte; ora 11:30 e
darkës, këngët e ringjalljes, riturgjia e Shenjtë
në orën 12 në mesnatë duke u gdhirë 8 Prilli,
Bekimi i ushqimit dhe mbarimi i kreshmës**

E Djele 8 Prill: ora 12 ne drekë: Leximi i
Ungjillit ne gjuhe te ndryshme

Adult Study to Continue on Wednesdays after Pascha



Adult Study will continue on Wednesdays, 7–8pm, April 18–May 30.

We will study Bishop Kallistos' The Orthodox Way.

This is a terrific introduction to the Orthodox understanding of God.

All are Welcome !!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Kerri Fox



The Sunday School wants to see you!

We had a successful meeting with both parents and teachers in January, where a contract was signed reminding all of us of our role in giving the best to our children. We continue to offer a nursery for ages four and under. If you are in church with children under four, please come down to the Fellowship Hall after communion and Ms. Joann will be happy to watch your child for the remaining part of liturgy. We offer Sunday School classes for all children, kindergarten through 8th grade. We are happy to see new faces.

There will be an IMPORTANT teachers meeting on Palm Sunday after liturgy. If you are a current teacher, substitute, or have any interest in becoming one please attend.

See Kerri Fox for more details.

Pastor's Message

Continued from page 1

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen.

+Fr. David

Reflections

He whom none may touch is seized;
He who looses Adam from the curse is bound.
He who tries the hearts and inner thoughts of man is unjustly brought to trial;
He who closed the abyss is shut in prison.
He before whom the powers of heaven stand with trembling stands before Pilate;
The Creator is struck by the hand of his creature.
He who comes to judge the living and the dead is condemned to the Cross;
The Destroyer of hell is enclosed in a tomb.
O Thou Who dost endure all these things in Thy tender love,
Who hast saved all men from the curse,
O longsuffering Lord, glory to Thee.

From Vespers on Great Friday

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits, then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until God has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Corinthians 15: 20–26

Annual Parish Meeting, Sunday, March 25th

The Parish Annual General Meeting was held after Liturgy. Status of activities and topics very important to the life of the Parish were discussed. They included religious development, education, financial results, Archdiocese & OCA news and building expansion activities. New proposals and approvals dealt with a Price Increase for Cemetery Plots and Space Expansion for Classrooms and Building Improvements. Also, in the Election to fill 5 Parish Council upcoming vacancies, the following were elected to 3 year terms: Pauline Logore, Thoma Beno, Nasi Pavlo, Peter Panajoti and James Liolin.

Approved Proposal for Mount Tomori Cemetery Plot Price Increase

In order to adjust to current market pricing, effective July 1, 2007 the price of the cemetery plots at Mount Tomori, Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York will increase as follows:

- Parish Member Price \$2,000 / Non Member Price \$4,000

Existing reservations and new reservations made before July 1st at the current price of \$900 for Parish Members and \$1,500 for Non Members must be significantly paid off (at least 50% of price) by July 1st and completely paid off (100%) by December 30th, 2007.

Approved Proposal for Space Expansion for Classrooms and Building Improvements

To care for the needs of the St. Nicholas Parish Community, including those of our children and elders, it is recommended that we approve the implementation of a building space expansion and upgrade program to take place over the next 3 years at an estimated cost of \$185,000. The program is to include:

- adding classroom space (2 rooms) for our childrens Sunday School and parish meetings
- installing an elevator lift between the first floor and the Fellowship Hall for the elderly and injured
- improving existing classroom and storage space arrangements, e.g. external storage unit
- modernize the men's restroom
- upgrading our air conditioning system

The money to pay for the Project will be raised through a major Building Fund Raising Campaign that will begin in April, 2007 and reach out to the entire Albanian community. Implementation of the Project will proceed once a minimum of \$85,000 is raised in actual funds and/or pledges which must be raised by December 31, 2007. The construction work will be done in phases with the space expansion having priority.

SPRING DINNER - DANCE

Saturday, April 21 7pm to 12 Midnight

Fleur De Lis Caterers, 870 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, Queens

Music by DJ

Adults: \$70

*Under 14 years
old: \$35*



Tickets Limited - Reserve a Table Now
COME, JOIN US !!!

This Month's Major Feast Days – Pascha – April 8th



The Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived therefore. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

You so Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Sherbimi i Pashkes sipas Shenjt Xhon Krisastom, Arcbishopoi i Konstantinopjes

Ai njeri qe eshte i devotshem dhe e do Zotin, le te gezoje kete feste te ndritcme triumfuese dhe te bukur. Ai njeri qe eshte sherbetor i zgjuar, duke u gezuar le te bashkohet ne lumturine e Perendise se tij. Ai qe eshte perpjekur me shume gjate kreshmes, le te marre tani shperblimin. Nese dikush filloi kreshmen ne oren e pare, tani eshte koha per te te shperblehet. Nese dikush ka ardhur ne oren e trete te kreshmes, le te gezohet ne feste. Nese dikush ka ardhur ne oren e gjashte te kreshmes, mos t'i leme asnje dyshim. Nese ka ardhur ne oren e nente, le te afrohet e te mos kete frike per asgje. Nese dikush eshte vonuar deri ne oren e njembdhjete, mos ta leme te friksohet me vonesen e tij sepse Zoti i cili modest per nderin qe i behet, do te pranoje te fundit sikur te ishte i pari. Ai i jep bekim atij qe ka mbajtur kreshmen qe ne oren e pare dhe atij qe ka filluar ne oren e njembdhjete.

Zoti tregon meshire per te fundit dhe kujdeset per te parin; njerit i dhuron dhe tjetrit i jep dhurata. Dhe pranon te mira nga te dy, pergezton qellimin e mire, nderon veprimin e mire dhe c'mund te falesh. Kudo qe jeni, ejani te gjithë ne gezimin e Zotit; dhe merr ate qe te takon, si i pari dhe i dyti. I pasur dhe i varfer, bashke gezoni. Ti me mendje te kthjellët dhe ti i trubulluar, nderoni kete dite. Gezoni sot, ju qe mbajtet kreshmen mire dhe ju qe e injoruat ate. Tavolina eshte e mbushur plot, gezoni pa kufi. Vici eshte shendoshur shume, asnje te mos largohet i uritur.

Te gjithë gezohuni ne festen e besimit; Te gjithë merrni pasurine e miresise se dashur, asnje te mos qaje per varferine, sepse e verteta per mbreterine universale ka dale ne shesh. Te mos vajtojme per padrejtesite tona, sepse te gjithë jane te falur. Asnje te mos kete frike vdekjen sepse vdekja e Shpetimtarit na ka shpetuar te gjithëve. Duke zbritur ne ferr, Ai e beri ferrin rob. Ai e hidheroi ate me shijen e mishit te tij. Dhe Isaja, duke e parashikuar kete, qau; Ferri ishte hidheruar sepse ishte i ndaluar, i mohuar dhe jo i gjalle, i permbysur, me pranga. Mori nje trup dhe takoi Zotin balle per balle. Morri toke dhe takoi parajsën. Mori ate qe dukej dhe ra mbi te padukshmen.

O vdekje, ku eshte thumbi yt? O ferr, ku eshte fitorja jote? Krishti u ngjall, dhe ti u permbyste. Krishti u Ngjall dhe djajte u zhduken. Krishti u Ngjall dhe Engjejt gezojne. Krishti u Ngjall dhe jeta perterihet. Krishti u Ngjall dhe asnje i vdekur nuk ngelet ne varr. Sepse Krishti qe u ngjall, u be shprese per gjithë ata qe flene ne mbreterine e zotit. Lavdia dhe fuqia qofte me Te! Amen.

Major Church Activities and Events

Weekday Meetings

Wednesdays: Adult Study, 7 pm
Apr 18 & 25 "The Orthodox Way"
May 2, 9, 17

Tues Apr 17: Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

Schedule for Holy Week

Sat Mar 31: Lazarus Saturday, 10 am, Divine Liturgy

Sun Apr 1: Palm Sunday, 10 am, Divine Liturgy,
Palms Blessing & Pancake Breakfast

Mon Apr 2: Bridegroom Matins at St. Vladimir's
Seminary; Leave Church at 6:45 pm
or meet at Seminary at 7:45 pm

Wed Apr 4: Holy Wednesday, 7 pm, Unction Service

Thurs Apr 5: Holy Thursday, 7 pm, 12 Gospel
Readings and Procession of the Cross

Fri Apr 6: Holy Friday: 1 pm Taking Down the
Lord's Body; 7 pm Lamentations
and Procession of the Epitaphy

Sat Apr 7: Holy Saturday, 10 am Divine Liturgy,
The Lord's Descent into Hades

Holy Pascha, 11:30 pm Resurrection
Matins and Midnight Divine Liturgy

Sun Apr 8: 12 noon Agape Vespers

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Apr 01: Lou Foundos / Robert Kora

Apr 08: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

Apr 15: Iliia Luka / Bill Peters

Apr 22: Petrika Troja / Fotag Kondili

Apr 29: Andrea Kutali / John Jance

May 06: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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