

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,

During this cold part of the year, some of us are mourning loved ones who have died.

Here is a reading that offers a Christian understanding of death.

Togetherness

Death is nothing at all.

I have only slipped into the next room.

Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be the household word that it always was.

Let it be spoken without effort.

Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same that it ever was;

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there is absolutely unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of your sight?

I am but waiting for you for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner.

All is well. Nothing is past; nothing is lost.

One brief moment and all will be as it was before, only better, infinitely better, infinitely happier and forever.

We will all be one together in Christ.

--Carmelite Monastery

President's Message

By Bill Peters

As we look ahead, we see the next few months as a very busy period in the annual life of our St. Nicholas Parish.

First, we are completing the collection of Pledges for 2007. So, give the needs of the church some serious thought and make a generous Pledge by submitting your card. Many have increased their Pledge from last year. Please do your best.

Second, this is a period of organizing and planning. The Daughters of St. Nicholas will be electing their officers to run their programs and activities for this year. In March, there will be the Annual Church Meeting to elect new Parish Council members who will work to care for the well being of

the Church. If you are interested in being on the Council, speak to Fr. David, Lou Foundos or me. Also at the meeting, we will be considering the growth needs of the Church - how we can add space, the related costs and how we can raise the money to pay for it. It is very important for all Parishioners to be part of this activity and attend this Annual Meeting.

Third, we will be starting our Easter Season activities with the "Beginning of Great Lent" on **Monday, February 19** and continue them through "Pascha" on **Sunday, April 8**. Fr. David will celebrate Pre-sanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays at 7pm starting on February 21. They will be followed by pot-luck supper and Adult Study discussion.

Come and Participate!!! The more you give of yourself, the more you will receive.

Growth – A Need for Help!!!

By Bill Peters

The “Good News” is that our Church community is growing! We can see this from the many baptisms, new births, engagements, new people attending services, increased membership and the many more children in the community. We are even considering making the Church bigger to care for our increasing needs for more space for Parish activities and Childrens’ Sunday School classrooms.

The “Bad News” is that we do not have enough people to work for the needs of the Church. We must build a strong Church both for ourselves, and for our children. To do this, the Church needs more participation from all members of the Parish Community. The Church operates and gets things done through the efforts of The Daughters of St. Nicholas, the Parish Council and the Parishioners.

For the “Daughters”, we need more women, especially the younger adults, to step up and take a more active role in the support activities of St. Nicholas. For the Parish Council, we need more people to volunteer to work on the Council and others to assume responsibility to run approved Church activities.

We must support and energize these organizations, now! Here is what we must do to get off to a successful start. For the “Daughters”, respond by attending meetings, volunteering to take an active role and participating in elections. For the Parish Council, we should attend the General Meeting in March, consider being a candidate in the elections for the Parish Council and work on activities with the Council throughout the year.

Personal sacrifice is needed, without it we will fail!!!

SHPREH

Kam shume shprese
Te perendia
Qe te mos jese
Keshtu Shqiperia,
Po te ndertohet,
Te lulezohet!

Pa vjen nje dite,
Qe te na sjelle
Te madhe drite,
Q’ajo te pjelle
Qytetarine
Fatbardhesine!

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By Adelina Llupa

Kete muaj do te lexoni nje pjese nga Metropolitoni Antoni Blum I Londres nga e cila te gjithe mund te perfitojme dicka dhe nje pjese nga nje vjershe e Naim Frasherit:

Ikona e Demtuar

Vetem duke depertuar ne brendesi te njeriut,
Mund te shohim bukurine qe ekziston ne te dhe mund te pelqejme dicka tek ai.

S’mund te perkrahim dike tek I cili shohim vetem gabime,
C’eshte e shemtuar, c’eshte e demtuar ne shpirtin e tij.
Kur Krishti vezhgonte njerzit qe takonte, prostituten apo hajdutin

Ai shihte nje bukuri qe fshihej atje.

Ndoshta ishte bukuri e demtuar, por Ai e quante ate “bukuri”.

Dhe Ai gjithmone e ndihmoi kete “bukuri”.

Te njejtën gje duhet te mesohemi ta bejme edhe ne per te tjeret.

Por kjo behet vetem me nje zemer te paster,

Me nje qellim te kthjellet, me nje zemergeresi qe jo gjithmone e kemi...

Qe te shohim tek njezite bukurine qe fshihet

Duhet te mendojme se secili nga ne eshte nje imazh i Zotit
Qe duhet konsideruar si nje ikone e demtuar...

Sikur te na jepej nje ikone e demtuar nga koha, nga rrethanat,

Apo te shkaterruar nga urrejtja njerezore,

Ne perseri do ta trajtonim ate ikone me respect, me kujdes, me butesi.

Ne s’do t’i kushtonim rendesi faktit qe ajo eshte e demtuar
Por do na vinte keq per tragjedine e saj dhe do te shijonim “bukurine” qe i kish mbetur

Kete duhet te bejme edhe ne kur flasim per maredhenjet me njerzit...

HOUSE BLESSINGS SIGN UP NOW !!!

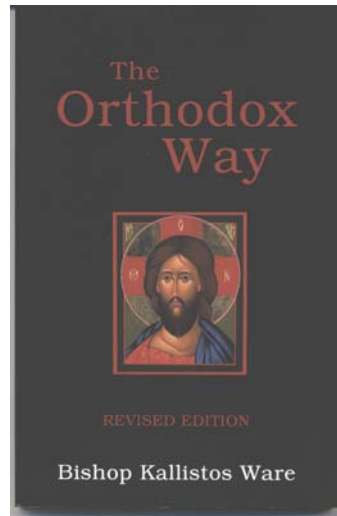


Father David will be visiting your area for a House Blessing. There will be a maximum of 3 home blessings on each night, so please plan for the Priest to be at your home for a half hour. Please list your family name and telephone number on the sign up sheet, or
Call Father David, (201) 841-7590

Evenings:

Tues., Feb. 6th: Bronx
Thurs., Feb. 8th: Brooklyn, Ridgewood
And By Appointment Prior to Great Lent

Adult Study



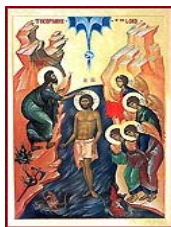
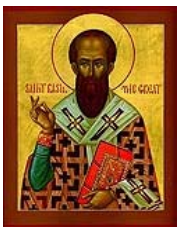
Adult Study will begin again during Great Lent on Wednesdays following Pre-sanctified Liturgies and a Pot-Luck supper.

The study book will be Bishop Kallistos',
The Orthodox Way.

Copies will be available at the Church for \$5.

The Wednesday dates in February are:
Feb 21 & Feb 28

ICON AUCTION A GREAT SUCCESS!!! *Sunday, January 7th*



If you Missed the Auction

*Make a Donation in Honor of
ICONS Special to your Family*

(Mail it in or Stop in at the Church Office)

Bishop Nikon Tonsurs Nathan Preston



His Grace, Bishop Nikon while recently visiting St. Vladimir's Seminary in Crestwood, NY tonsured third-year seminarian **Nathan Preston** of the diocese of the Mid-West.

Nathan is currently at our St. Nicholas Parish doing field work by assisting Fr. David Fox. He is working with the Sunday School, as well as serving in the sanctuary. Last Summer, Nathan was in Albania spending several weeks with a youth camp on a grant from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC.)

Community News

By Linda Foundos

- The Ligor family was recently blessed with a new member. Pat and **Dina (Badrieh)** Beachino gave birth to a baby boy on December 23rd. Anthony weighed in at 9 pounds 9 ½ ounces. Congratulations to the proud parents, to the grandparents Ray and **Dian (Badrieh)** Bernardo and **Georgina Ligor**, the proud great-grandmother. Georgina and her family were pillars of our community for many decades. Their service to St. Nicholas and our community will not be forgotten. May God bless baby Anthony with a long, healthy and happy life!
- **Beti Beno**, daughter of Dr. Dhimiter and Diana Beno, recently announced her engagement to Isadoros Tsamblakos. We wish Izzy, Beti and her adorable son George, much happiness. Both Beti and Izzy are practicing attorneys. Te Trashegohen!!
- Welcome! into the Orthodox faith and the St. Nicholas community to **Julian Mulla** who was baptized on Sunday, January 21st. May God bless Julian, his sponsor, Sideris Karamintzos and their families.
- “Good Health” wishes go out to **Carlos Matute**. Carlos, his wife **Maria** and baby boy, Symeon, are in our thoughts and prayers. Also, “Congratulations” to them on their new home. May it be filled with much joy. You are missed at St. Nicholas!
- Get well wishes go out to **Anna and Mario Liberta**, the parents of Christina Liolin. Anna and Mario, the bocce tournament champion, make their home in upstate New York.
- **Ellen Gradt** had a great time in Florida visiting with a long time friend in Fort Myers. They also spent a day in Naples with Joan Foundos and Viola Kallinikos where they enjoyed a wonderful beachside lunch with fabulous 80 degree sunshine.
- **Betty and George Kelapire** recently made a trip to the east coast of Florida visiting their son, John, his wife Roberta and two grandsons, Justin and Ryan. A great time was had by all! Betty will be enjoying the warm weather for the rest of the winter at her home in South Palm Beach.
- A visit from Switzerland! **Alexis Peters–Heuser** with her husband Stefan, and two daughters, Skyler and Sophia, visited Grandma and Grandpa (**Tina and Bill Peters**) for the holiday season. **Skyler**, 5 years old, enjoyed coming to church, helping with the collection basket and getting involved with the children in the Sunday School.
- Good luck to **Lauren Foundos** as she begins her new job with Cloudview Capital, a new hedge fund. Her energy, enthusiasm, intelligence and personality plus should serve her well. Her family is very proud of her. You go girl!!
- The New York Chapter of the **Albanian–American National Organization** (AANO) hosted a holiday party on January 24th at Macelleria Restaurant in NYC. A great time was had by all including a number of our church members who are AANO members as well. Thanks to Jana Foundos, the NY Chapter President, for coordinating such an enjoyable evening.
- A 40 Day Memorial will be held after Liturgy on Sunday, February 4th for **Eri Tare**, grandson in the Naum Prifti Family. Eri died suddenly of natural causes while serving as an interpreter for the United States in Kosovo. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his mother, Julika, and the Prifti Family for their loss.
- An 80 Day Memorial will be held after Liturgy on Sunday, February 11th for **Kidanemariam Tuku** and other family members. He and his wife, Miriam were active parishioners of St. Nicholas. He passed away in his homeland, Asmara, Eritrea, East Africa, where they went after their retirement. Our deepest sympathy to Miriam and their niece, Britu Haile and family.

**Memorial Saturday (E Shtuna E Te Vdekurve) is on February 10th and
Great Lent begins on Monday, February 19th**

This Month's Major Feast Days



Meeting of our Lord in the Temple - Commemorated on February 02

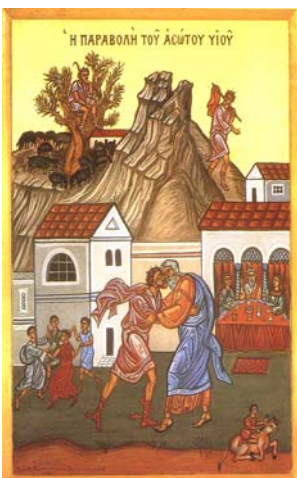
The Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law. The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers:

"Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35). At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St Simeon met the diving Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church.

OTHER FEBRUARY MAJOR FEAST DAYS



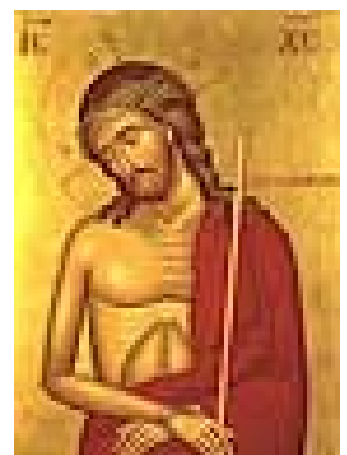
February 04
Prodigal Son Sunday



February 11
Meatfare Sunday
Sunday of the Last Judgment



February 18
Cheesefare Sunday
Forgiveness Sunday



February 19
Beginning of Great Lent

Major Church Activities and Events

Weekday Services

Thurs Feb 1: Vesperal Liturgy for Presentation of
the Lord into the Temple, 7 pm
Sat Feb 10: Memorial Saturday
Divine Liturgy, 10 am
Wed Feb 21: Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 7 pm
and
followed by
Wed Feb 28: Pot Luck Supper and Adult Study

Meetings

Sun Feb 4: Meeting for Altar Boys after Liturgy
Fri Feb 9: Archdiocesan Meeting, Natick MA
Tues Feb 13: Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

Feast Days

Sun Feb 4: Prodigal Son Sunday
Sun Feb 11: Last Judgment / Meatfare Sunday
Sun Feb 18: Cheesefare / Forgiveness Sunday
Mon Feb 19: Great Lent begins
Sun Feb 25: First Sunday of Great Lent,
Triumph of Orthodoxy

Memorials

Sun Feb 4: 40 Day for Eri Tare
Sun Feb 11: 80 Day for Kidanemariam Tuku
& Family

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Feb 04: Roland Llupa / Edi Seri
Feb 11: Bill Peters / Iliia Luka
Feb 18: Petrika Troja / Fotaq Kondili
Feb 25: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
Mar 04: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
Mar 11: Damian Peters / Jim Oswald

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

House Blessings

Tues Feb 6: Bronx
Thurs Feb 8: Brooklyn, Ridgewood
Other Visits by Appointment

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
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Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



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