

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Dear Friends,

It was a joy to have His Grace, Bishop NIKON, celebrating the Liturgy. We experienced the fullness of the Church in His presence. His sermon was extraordinary. If possible, I am including a part of it on the Saints in this Post. The first Sunday of June we commemorate "All Saints Day." The second Sunday we commemorate "All Saints of North America." Most of June (from the 4th to the 29th), we will be observing a Fast for SS Peter and Paul, whose Feast Day we observe on June 29th. We end June by commemorating all the Apostles on the 30th. It is an important time then, to think how we, the North American saints of today, are to serve God and His Church.

His Grace asked, "What keeps us from being Saints today?" He reminded us that all the Saints had personal

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failings, and it was actually these failings that are highlighted as a message of God's greatness in working through human weakness. We can all take heart in his words.

A belated **THANK YOU!** to all who provided an extra gift to me and my family at Pascha. May God bless you for your kindness.

Your friend,
+ Fr. David

President's Message

By Bill Peters

It was wonderful having Bishop Nikon visit the Parish on May 19 & 20. The bestowing of Archdiocese Service awards was an exciting event. Awards have been presented to members of our Parish, only on two occasions in the last 31 years. They are truly an honor for extraordinary services to the church. Congratulations to the recipients - Georgina Ligor, Larry Jance and Mark Papalexis.

More than 100 people enjoyed the fabulous Brunch prepared by the Daughters in honor of the Bishop. A special thanks to all the ladies, especially Tina Peters who headed-up the work.

As you know, we are at the early stages of our detailed planning for the Building Expansion Project.

Soon we will be providing specific information to all of you in the Parish Community and starting our special Building Fund Raising Campaign to raise almost \$200,000 with at least \$85,000 committed by the end of this year.

On June 17th, we will all be celebrating "Fathers' Day" and sharing our love and thoughts with the fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers who have had an important impact on our lives.

Summer is almost here - graduations, beach parties, cookouts and vacations; and, of course, the Annual St. Nicholas Picnic at Hempstead Lake State Park. This year it will be on Sunday, July 1st at 11:30 am after Liturgy in Church at 9:30 am.

**COME ONE, COME ALL AND
HAVE A GREAT TIME!!!!!!**

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By Adelina Llupa

Kete muaj po japim nje pjese nga vjersha "Ujet e Bekuar" e Naim Frasherit marre nga permbledhja "Lulet e Veres".

Dashurine duke mbjelle,
Dhe kengete duke pjelle,
E gas te madh duke sjelle
Mjeresaja na mbulohet.

Te keqijat harrohen,
Dhe mejtimet s'mbarohen,
Edhe bregate s'mejtohen,
Njeriu qesh e gezohet.

Jakeni, shoke, te rrimë,
Rreth druvezes' e te pime,
Se te nesermen s'e dime,
Na arriti pleqerija.

Koha po shkon e me s'kthehet,
Njeriu l zi gezohet,
Me pune te rrema merret,
Dhe e mbulon babezija.

Gjithe jeten nuke rrojme,
Shpirtine pse t'e mundojme?
Pa qasuni te kendojme,
Se na plasi buz' e shkrete.

Shkel e shko zemera ime,
Mos bjere ne hidherime
E ne breng' e ne mejtime,
Mos te genjeje kjo jete.

Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

A Daughters meeting was held on Sunday, April 29th at which time elections were held. I am delighted to report that our new slate of officers is as follows: President: Linda Foundos, Vice President: Agathia Luka, Secretary: Pauline Logore, Treasurer: Viola Kallinikos, Assistant Treasurer: Tina Peters, Sunshine Person: Helen Panajoti. As the new President, I would like to thank the ladies for stepping up to serve and look forward to working with them. As always, we welcome the participation of all the women in the St. Nicholas community. Participation is what makes a parish vibrant.

A sincere thank you to our outgoing officers: President: Christina Liolin, Vice President: Irma Mile, Secretary: Adelina Llupa. Under the Christina's leadership, the Daughters served St. Nicholas so well. Christina has always been so dedicated, hard-working and attentive to all the parish needs. Thank you, Ladies!!

During the month of May, the Daughters coordinated several memorials and prepared a lovely brunch to honor and welcome Bishop Nikon. A huge thank you to our chairperson for this event, Tina Peters, for doing such a professional job as always and to all those that assisted as well with shopping, preparing, serving, setting up and cleaning up. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

On Sunday, June 10th the Daughters have planned a luncheon at Crabtree's Restaurant in Floral Park following liturgy and coffee fellowship. Please see luncheon ad for details. Come and let's get to know each other better. We would love to hear from you, any suggestions, comments or ideas you may have for the Daughters. We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer!

**See Ad for the Daughters Luncheon
on Page 4**

Bishop Nikon Visits Our Parish

On May 19th and 20th, we were blessed with a visit by His Grace, Bishop Nikon. Vespers were held on Saturday evening which was followed by an informal dinner attended by Parish Council and Daughters' members. On Sunday, Liturgy was celebrated. In addition to Fr. David, Bishop Nikon was assisted by Fr. Deacon Greg Vrato from Philadelphia and our own Seminarian, Nathan Preston.

Following the Liturgy, the Bishop bestowed Archdiocese Awards for Extraordinary Service over the years to Georgina Ligor, Larry Jance and Mark Papalexis. Georgina and Larry received the honor of "The Standard Bearer of Holy Illiria", and Mark received the honor of "The Herald of St. Constantine and St. Helena".

Afterwards, more than 100 people enjoyed an outstanding Brunch provided by the Daughters' of St. Nicholas in Bishop Nikon's honor. Egg strata, sausage, bacon, roasted potatoes, rolls, muffins, juice, fruit, etc. were prepared under the direction of Tina Peters. The Daughters' presented His Grace with a gift and served a special cake to commemorate his 5th anniversary of his consecration as Bishop.



BAPTISMS



Baptism is our entrance into the Church, new birth in Christ, forgiveness of sins. Baptizing a child or being Baptized is the greatest gift and also the greatest responsibility God gives to us. Baptisms will take place on

Sundays, the day of the Lord's Resurrection.

It is with joy that we have welcomed the following persons who have been recently Baptized into the St. Nicholas community:

- Julian Mulla, whose godparents are Ilia and Agathia Luka.
- Yona Stefani, whose godmother is Valbona (Maria) Grezdhani, daughter of Frederik and Anila (Ana) Stefani of Staten Island.
- Amma Katrina Treska, whose godparents are Ken and Carolyn Vancini, daughter of Alfred and Entela Treska.

An Upcoming Baptism: Andrew Philip Foundos, son of Phil and Johanna Foundos.

Daughters of St. Nicholas Spring Luncheon



**Sunday, June 10, 2007
at 12:30 p.m.**

**Crabtree's Restaurant 226 Jericho Tnpk
(516) 326-7769 Floral Park, NY**

Cost is \$25 per person

**For Reservations, Please Contact:
Linda Foundos (516) 671-8071**

All women of the St. Nicholas community are invited. We hope you can join us for a great afternoon.

GRADUATIONS



Sunday School Graduation will take place on June 10th. From June 17th-July, there will be 'a one-room schoolhouse' for any child who comes to Liturgy. There will be a Sunday School picnic in late August or early September. Date will be published.

If you know of any graduates from Elementary, Junior High, High School or College coming up in the next few weeks, please send us the names and the schools of our young scholars.

REMINDERS

**SUNDAY LITURGY TIME CHANGE
During the Summer, July 1 thru Sept 2**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy
will start
at 9:30 am**

**CEMETERY PLOTS AT MT. TOMORI
Price Increase on July 1, 2007**

New Prices are:

**Members: \$2,000 per plot
Non Members: \$4,000 per plot**

**To Buy Plots before the Price Increases
See Bill Peters.**

Mother of the Year Award



Our own, Linda Foundos was honored as **“Mother of the Year”** by the Albanian American Women’s Organization (AAWO) at their Annual Mothers’ Day Dinner–Dance on May 12th.

Linda graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. Degree in Psychology excited to launch an ambitious career, although she would later realize her true compassion lied in her causal tasks as a dedicated mother and community activist. She met her husband, Lou Foundos, an Albanian/American entrepreneur and activist, at an Albanian American National Organization national convention in Chicago. She has been married to Lou for 33 happy years and has 3 beautiful children

Mark, Steven and Lauren. Last year, the Foundos were blessed with their first grandchild, James.

At present, Linda serves a president of the Daughters of St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church. She has also been a member of the Parish Council, has been a key worker on the Annual Flea Market and Bazaar for many years, and writes for the church monthly newsletter, The Orthodox Post. In addition, Linda has been active in the Albanian American National Organization for the past 33 years having served as New York Chapter Secretary and National New York Board of Governor. Locally, she supports the Association for Helping Mentally Challenged Children.

Family and friends, including many parishioners attended this gala event to help Linda celebrate the receipt of her award.

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church



Sunday, July 1st

Hempstead Lake State Park

Exit #18 on the Southern State Pkwy

11:30 a.m. until dark

COMMUNITY NEWS

- A very Happy, Happy Birthday to Helena Liolin as she celebrated her 90th birthday on May 17. Helena has a rich and beautiful history as a very intelligent, active, loving leader within the Albanian community. She has numerous wonderful accomplishments to her credit including raising 5 sons, Bishop Nikon, Rt. Rev. Arthur Liolin, John, Bill and James Liolin. All the best to her and her beautiful family.
- Happy Anniversary to Bishop Nikon as he celebrates his 5th year since his elevation to Bishop. We thank him for his service and leadership. May God continue to bless him. Per shume vjet!!
- Birthday wishes to Thea Pavllo who celebrated her 10th birthday with a super party given by her parents, Albana & Nasi. What great fun for all!! Many, many more years with good health and much happiness.
- Gloria Sawyer had a great time in Chicago when she went to visit Fr. Elijah, Rebecca and Gabriel Mueller. They had wonderful time visiting and seeing the sights of Chicago. Gabriel is a great tour guide. Little Gabriel has grown into quite the "young man."
- Kudos to Fiona Fundo!! After much hard work and effort, Fiona has completed her studies and passed the exams for certification in the U.S. as a Doctor of Internal Medicine. Fiona will now be working at a hospital in the Bronx. Her husband Ilir, mother & father-in-law, Zana and Thomaq Fundo and the rest of the family and friends are so proud of her accomplishments. She has a wonderful and admirable career ahead. We wish Fiona and her family all the best. Congratulations!!
- Our deepest sympathy to Tina & Bill Peters and family on the loss of Bill's nephew, Craig Sowa, who died on May 6th at 43 years old leaving behind his wife, Sandra and 3 teenage children. Craig was the son-in-law of Bill's sister Martha Pucca. May his memory be eternal. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.
- Bravo to Lori Dilo on her graduation from New York Institute of Technology earning a BFA in Graphic Design. Lori is working as an accessory designer. She has designed licensed character socks and body & bath products: i.e. Sponge Bob, Betty Boop, Disney characters, etc. These designs are carried by stores like Sears, TJ Maxx, JC Penney's and others. She also works as a freelance designer for Aeropostale and designs men's loungewear. If you walk into an Aeropostale store, chances are she has designed 20% of their boxers and 50% of their dorm pants. Being an avid student, Lori looks forward to going back to school for a graduate degree. Her goal is to work as an Art Director or Creative Design Director. In addition, Lori also designs logos, brochures, invitations and advertisements for anyone needing these services. Congratulations on all your success!! Your family and friends are very proud of you.
- Congratulations to Gregory Papalexis on his graduation from Herricks High School. He enjoyed the athletic arena as well and was awarded "All Conference" for Lacrosse. Greg plans to attend Nassau Community College in the fall. We very much appreciate Greg serving in the altar for more than 10 years. He has been very kind to take the younger boys under his wing and train them well. His parents, Barbara and Mark, and sisters, Alison and Laura, wish him all the best as do we all.
- Arba Llupa: On May 4th Jonas Bronck Academy, MS 224, located in the Hayden Hall at Manhattan College in Riverdale celebrated its 10th anniversary with a new media center and a new library with a legacy. Arba Llupa, the daughter of Adelina & Roland, and sister of George, was a student at that school. Her life was cut short in July 2000 after a fatal car crash. Arba was an avid reader and writer who loved reading books, writing poems and essays. To keep Arba's legacy alive, her parents always contributed to the school's most academically successful student accompanied by a generous monetary gift. To honor Arba's legacy, the school named the library "The Arba Room," and a beautiful plaque with her picture hangs at the entrance of the media center. The ribbon-cutting ceremony and the jubilation for the ceremony were also mixed with bittersweet memories for Arba through her former friends, teachers and her parents. Arba's legacy lives on in the media center. She is helping and supporting students even now. This was one of her passions. She was a real Orthodox Christian.

*The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leader of the Apostles,
Peter & Paul*

Commemorated on June 29



Sermon of Saint Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (excerpts)
Today the Holy Church piously remembers the sufferings of the Holy Glorious and All-Praised Apostles Peter and Paul.

After His Resurrection the Lord entrusted the Apostle Peter to shepherd His spiritual flock not because, that among the disciples only Peter alone was pre-deserved to shepherd the flock of Christ, but Christ addresses Himself chiefly to Peter because, that Peter was first among the Apostles and as such the representative of the Church; besides which, having turned in this instance to Peter alone, as to the top Apostle, Christ by this confirms the unity of the Church. "Simon of John" -- says the Lord to Peter -- "lovest thou Me?" -- and the Apostle answered: "Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee"; and a second time it was thus asked, and a second time he thus answered; being asked a third time, seeing that as it were not believed, he was saddened. But how is it possible for him not to believe That One, Who knew his heart? And wherefore then Peter answered: "Lord, Thou knowest all; Thou knowest that I love Thee." "And sayeth Jesus to him" all three times "Feed My sheep.

The Apostle Paul, formerly Saul, was changed from a robbing wolf into a meek lamb. Formerly he was an enemy of the Church, then is manifest as an Apostle. Formerly he stalked it, then preached it. When he, "having persecuted and vexed" in such manner "the Church of God", he came near Damascus, and the Lord from Heaven called to him: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" and I am here, and I am there, I am everywhere: here is My head; there is My body. There becomes nothing of a surprise in this; we ourselves are members of the Body of Christ. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me; it is hard for thee to kick against the goad". Saul, however, "trembling and frightened", cried out: "Who art Thou, Lord?" The Lord answered him, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest." And Saul suddenly undergoes a change: "What wanst Thou me to do?" -- he cries out. And suddenly for him there is the Voice: "Arise, and go to the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do". And actually the Lord did show the Apostle Paul what things he had to suffer for His Name. He instructed him the deeds; He did not stop at the chains, the fetters, the prisons and shipwrecks; He Himself felt for him in his sufferings, He Himself guided him towards this day. On a single day the memory of the sufferings of both these Apostles is celebrated,

And so, brethren, celebrating now the memory of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, remembering their venerable sufferings, we esteem their true faith and holy life, we esteem the innocence of their sufferings and pure confession.

Congratulations to the Reader Nathan



The Reader Nathan Preston, who has been serving this academic year as a resident seminarian at St. Nicholas, graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary on Saturday, May 19th. Nathan's parents, who live in Idaho, attended the Pontifical (i.e., with a Bishop) Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 20th, and appreciated the warm reception they had here. Having been tonsured a Reader at St. Vladimir's Seminary by our Bishop, NIKON, during this year, Nathan has read the Epistle, the Morning Hours of Prayer before Liturgy, he has preached several sermons, coached the choir and the altar boys, taught an adult study class and helped with the Sunday School. Nathan's last Sunday serving in this capacity will be Pentecost, May 27th.

Over the summer, Nathan will be serving as an intern at another Orthodox parish, but hopes to return to the Metropolitan area in the fall, perhaps working with Fr. David at Covenant House in Newark, NJ, and continuing to serve the parish in the fall. Interestingly, the Reader Nathan also spent a couple of weeks on a mission trip to Albania. We are so thankful to have had Nathan serve at St. Nicholas. Congratulate him on his graduation and pray for God's guidance for his future.

Major Church Activities and Events

Meetings

Tues June 4: Parish Council Meeting 7 pm

Services

Sun June 3: All Saints, Divine Liturgy 10 am

Mon June 4: Beginning of SS. Peter and Paul Fast

Sun June 10: All Saints of America,
Divine Liturgy 10 am
Sunday School Graduation
Daughters of St. Nicholas Luncheon

Sun June 24: Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Thurs June 28: Vesperal Liturgy for Holy Apostles
Peter and Paul 7 p.m.

Sun July 1: Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Church Picnic 11:30 am, see Page 5

**NOTE: TIME CHANGE for SUMMER SUNDAY LITURGY
From JULY 1 thru SEPT 2, START at 9:30 AM**

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

June 3: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

June 10: Bill Peters / Ilija Luka

June 17: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo

June 24: Andrea Kutali / John Jance

July 1: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori

July 8: Dhimiter Beno / Ardian Mile

July 15: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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