

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Dear Friends,
Christ is Risen!
Krishti U Ngjall!

The Myrrhbearing Women and the Apostles knew the Risen Christ personally? How can we know God? Only by being around people who are reverent.

Having learned a lot of facts, read the Bible, studied theology, I learned so much about God by watching a simple Russian-American woman named Liz, how she stood and prayed in the temple (church), lit her candles, crossed herself, was silent. Liz had no formal theological education, but she had reverence for God, something that can only be passed from person to person. Last Sunday, we heard a bit from Elder Paisios of Mount Athos, about how to acquire reverence, little

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	1
Pascha Memories	1
Kendi Shqip/President's Message/Parish Council	2
Adult Study/Sunday School/On Reverence	3
Parish Community News/Bishop Nikon Visit	4
This Month's Major Feast Days	5
Major Events & Sunday Ushers' List	6

specific things.

I hope the article on page 3, "On Reverence", can be of help. For those of us trying to find reverence: who are the people we can watch? For those of us who have grown up in the Church: what are others learning about reverence from us?

Pray for us.
Your friend,
+Fr. David

Good Friday Highlights



KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By Adelina Llupa

Perseri nje pjese te bukur nga poema "Perendija" e Naim Frasherit, marre nga permbledhja "Lulet e Veres". Mesimi qe nxjerrim ne: Duke qene njerez te mire, ne e duam dhe besojme tek Perendia.

Eshte ne shesht Perendija
I verberi s'mund t'a shohe,
Ajo eshte gjithesia,
I dituri mund t'a njohe.

Pe nje luleze kur shohim,
Dhe te veme re nje flete,
Me dituri, t'a njohim,
Q'atje eshte Zot' I vertete.

Eshte ne shesht Perendija,
Secili do mund ta njohe,
Po s'e mbuloj e padija,
Njeri tekdo mund t'a shohe.

Kush do t'a shohe te tere
Te shohe mire njerine,
Vethen' e tij re te vere,
Atje gjen Perendine.

Dhe Parajsa dhe Sketerra,
Dhe engjelli edhe djalli,
Edhe gjithë c'ka te tjera,
Jane mbrenda tek I gjalli.

Ajy qe ka miresine
Ka Perendin' e te mirat,
Edhe kush ka djallezine,
Ka djalle e ligesirat.

President's Message

By Bill Peters

Christ Is Risen!!!

Hope that you all had a Blessed Pascha!!!

We are at the start of a very important period. In addition to the normal busy activities, we are beginning the major Fund Raising effort for the building addition to the church that will provide classrooms for our children's Sunday School and other building improvements. As approved at the March General Meeting, \$85,000 of the \$185,000 must be raised by the end of this year for the program to move toward implementation. This building space expansion project is very important to the ongoing success of the Parish Community. It is critical that we all support the fund raising by making a generous donation that can be paid all at once or over a 3 year period.

On May 19th and 20th, Bishop Nikon will be visiting our Parish. Be sure to greet him and participate in the activities described on page 4.

Parish Council

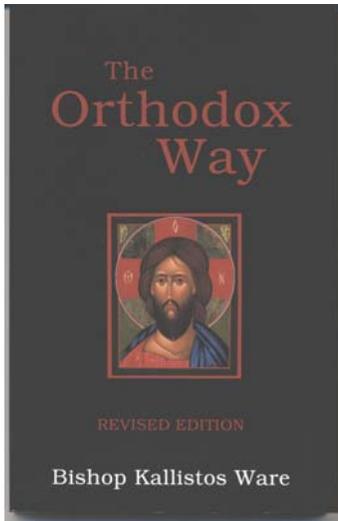
At the March General Parish Meeting, five representatives were elected to the Parish Council to replace those whose three year term was expiring.

At the first meeting of the new Parish Council on April 17th, it elected the officers for the coming year and discussed plans for addressing the important issues facing the St. Nicholas Parish.

The elected officers and the Council members in addition to Fr. David Fox serving the Parish for the next year are as follows:

President	Bill Peters
Vice President	Petrika Troja
Treasurer	Lou Foundos
Secretary	Pauline Logore
Members:	
	Thoma Beno
	Jim Liolin
	Ilia Luka
	Peter Panajoti
	Nasi Pavllo

Adult Study Continues on Wednesdays in May



Adult Study will continue on
Wednesdays
7:00–8:30 pm
May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 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



Sunday School wants to see you!

We offer Sunday School classes for all children, kindergarten through 8th grade.

We are happy to see new faces.

Graduation will be Sunday, June 10th.

See Kerri Fox for more details.

REMINDER!!!

The price for Cemetery Plots at Mt. Tomori will increase on July 1, 2007, as approved at the March General Meeting. New rates are:

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

For More Information or to Buy plots before the price increases, see Bill Peters.

Pastor's Message Continued from page 1

"On Reverence"

Excerpts from an Interview with Elder Paisios

Q: Elder, What helps one behave reverently in church?

A: When you are on your way to church say in your thoughts, "Where am I going now? Behold I'm entering the Temple of God! What am I doing? I venerate the Icons, I venerate God." From your cell or house, you go to the Temple, and from the Temple you ascend to heaven and, even further to the presence of God.

Q: How is that?

A: The Temple is the "house" of God and our true home is in Paradise. Here the chanters sing; there, the Angels and the Saints...If, when visiting a friends house we first knock on the door, wipe our shoes and sit down politely, then when entering the "house" of God, where Christ is being sacrificed for us, what are we to do? With one drop of His blood He saved us from sin and then with numberless quarts of the same and as many pounds of His body, He continually nurtures us.

Meditating on these things and all the other divine events that we read in Scripture helps increase our reverence while being in church. Unfortunately, we neglect this exercise and what happens? The priest says, "Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord," and while we say "We lift them up to the Lord," in reality very few are those that do. It is better to say 'Let us lift thei to the Lord," so that at least we do not lie to Him.

Conclusion:

As much as you can, try to cultivate reverence and self-restraint. In this way the Grace of God will draw closer to you. Reverence and Humility will also bring true virtue. What does Scripture say? "To whom will I have respect, but to the humble and meek, and the man that trembles at my words?"

Community News

By Linda Foundos

- It was a very proud moment for Viola Kallinikos when her granddaughter, Jennifer Slane, daughter of Tina Slane, stepped up on the stage at the Tilles Center at her White Coat Ceremony to receive and put on her “white coat” which signifies the beginning of the next phase of her medical education. Jennifer is a 3rd year student at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, NYCON. After 2 years of class work, she will now be doing her “clinical rotation” of hospitals and specialties for the next 2 years as she works her way towards her Doctor’s degree. Bravo, Jenn!!!
- Tina & Bill Peters were delighted with a week-long visit from their daughter, Alexis Heuser, from Switzerland. Alexis came to serve as bridesmaid in her best friend’s wedding. Alexis, her husband Stephan, and 2 beautiful daughters, Skyler and Sophia are all doing well, but miss all their New York family. We miss you too, Alexis!!
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Joan Foundos who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, March 31st. She will be deeply missed by all her beautiful family: Al, Phillip & Jana Foundos, Donna & Jim Oswald and Christine & Thoma Beno, and 8 grandchildren, Matthew, Christina, Kimberly, Daniel, Alex, Jamie, Daniela and Andrew. Joan’s parents, Kleanthi & Spero Malasko, were among the founders and pillars of the St. Nicholas Church. Joan also continued in their footsteps and generously dedicated so much of her time, effort and love to the church as well. The “Joan & Al” duo had a very blessed and full life together for 48 years. They reached out to many with their energy, generosity, love and good works. Joan left a beautiful mark on the world. She will be loved and missed by so many. May her memory be eternal. *In lieu of flowers, the family had requested that donations be made to the “St. Nicholas Building Fund” which has plans to expand the classrooms for the children. So, if you feel inclined, you may send a donation to the fund at St. Nicholas in memory of Joan Foundos.
- Our deepest sympathy to Theodore Preftes and his family, on the passing of his wife Anita in March. Ted’s father, Iliia, was one of the Founders of St. Nicholas in Manhattan. May her memory be eternal.



BISHOP NIKON TO VISIT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH Saturday, May 19th and Sunday, May 29th

On Saturday, Bishop Nikon will serve Great Vespers at 5:00 pm.

On Sunday at 10:00 am, he will preside at Sunday Liturgy and the feast day celebration of Sts. Constantine and Helen.

A Brunch with Bishop Nikon in our Fellowship Hall will follow Liturgy which will enable us to personally greet our Bishop.

Please make every effort to attend Great Vespers, Divine Liturgy and our Brunch to honor and welcome our Bishop Nikon.

This Month's Major Feast Days – Equal of the Apostles and Emperor Constantine with his Mother Helen

Commemorated on May 21



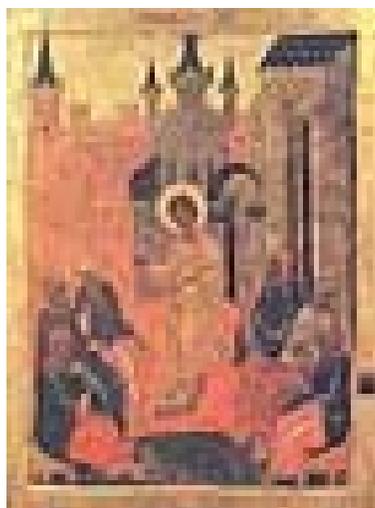
The Church calls St Constantine (306-337) "the Equal of the Apostles," and historians call him "the Great." His mother was St Helen, a Christian of humble birth. After he became emperor, Constantine showed his mother great honor and respect, granting her the imperial title "Augusta." Constantine was raised to respect Christianity. His father did not persecute Christians in the lands he governed.

After Constantine became the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 which guaranteed religious tolerance for Christians. St Helen, who was a Christian, may have influenced him in this decision. After three hundred years of persecution Christians could finally practice their faith without fear. Renouncing paganism, the Emperor did not let his capital remain in ancient Rome, the former center of the pagan realm. He transferred his capital to the East, to the city of Byzantium, which was renamed Constantinople, the city of Constantine (May 11). Constantine was deeply convinced that only Christianity could unify the immense Roman Empire with its diverse peoples. He supported the Church in every way. He recalled Christian confessors from banishment, he built churches, and he showed concern for the clergy.

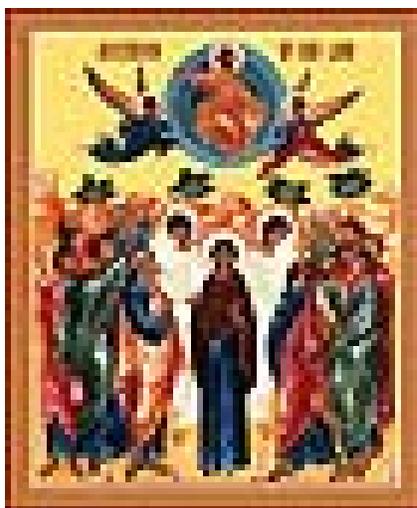
The emperor deeply revered the victory-bearing Sign of the Cross of the Lord, and also wanted to find the actual Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For this purpose he sent his own mother, the holy Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, granting her both power and money. St Helen began the search, and through the will of God, the Life-Creating Cross was miraculously discovered in 326. The Orthodox Church commemorates the Uncovering of the Precious Cross and the Precious Nails by the Holy Empress Helen on March 6.

The emperor Constantine ordered a magnificent church in honor of Christ's Resurrection to be built over His tomb. St Helen gave the Life-Creating Cross to the Patriarch for safe-keeping, and took part of the Cross with her for the emperor. After distributing generous alms at Jerusalem and feeding the needy (at times she even served them herself), the holy Empress Helen returned to Constantinople, where she died in the year 327.

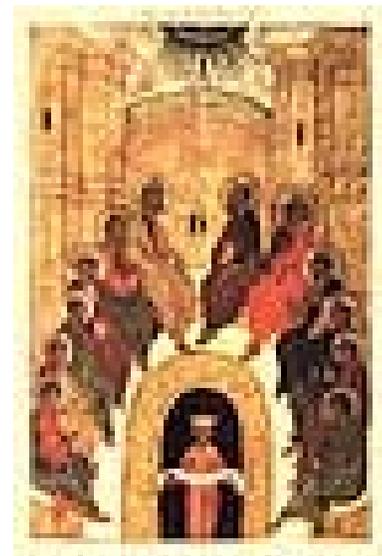
Because of her great services to the Church and her efforts in finding the Life-Creating Cross, the empress Helen is called "the Equal of the Apostles."



Midfeast – May 2



Ascension – May 17



Pentecost – May 27

Major Church Activities and Events

Weekday Meetings

Wednesdays: Adult Study, 7 pm
May 2, 9, 16 "The Orthodox Way"
23 & 30

Mon May 7: Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

Services

Sundays: Divine Liturgy, 10 am, Coffee
Fellowship & Sunday School

Sun May 6: 40 day Memorial for Joan Foundos

Wed May 16: Vespers Liturgy for The Ascension of
The Lord, 7 pm

Sat May 19: Treska Baptism, 12 noon
Great Vespers, 5 pm with
His Grace, Bishop Nikon

Sun May 20: Divine Liturgy, 10 am, with His Grace,
Bishop Nikon
Brunch after Liturgy in Fellowship Hall

Sat May 26: Memorial Liturgy, Divine Liturgy, 10 am

Sun May 27: Pentecost

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

May 6: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori

May 13: Damian Peters / Jim Oswald

May 20: Ardian Mile / Thoma Beno

May 27: Lou Foundos / Robert Kora

June 3: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

June 10: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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