

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

On God and Money, excerpts from a sermon delivered October 21, 2007

Do we wish to know God? Then we have to consider what we do with our money. Many times in the Gospels, our Lord links our salvation to how we use our money. Judas Isacariot betrayed the Lord for money. A tax collector is saved because he gave half his money to the poor. A widow is blessed because she gave a penny but it was all she had. In today's Gospel about the Rich Man and Lazarus the point is perfectly clear: someday each of us will be judged by how we have used our money in this life.

Several months ago somebody gave me a Sunday bulletin that had many mistakes circled in red ink. "Fr. David, look at all these mistakes in the bulletin, this is embarrassing: think how we look to people

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who visit our church." At first, I felt embarrassed too. But a little while after that I heard a report done by our stewardship committee. It was eye opening. The report said that 60% of us at St. Nicholas Church give less than \$300 a year to support this Church. This is \$300 a year to pay for a Bishop, a priest, a secretary, a custodian, our seminaries, money for the poor, the

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President's Message

By Bill Peters

October was a very busy period in our church calendar. We started several important activities and the planning of several activities that take us into the new year, including the St. Nicholas Day Luncheon, the Children's Christmas Pageant, the Pancake Breakfast, Christmas Services and our Icon Auction during Theophany.

We launched the fundraising for our Church Building Space Expansion Project as approved at our September General Meeting of the Parish. We implemented another successful Flea Market and Bake Sale on October 27 - 28, thanks to the efforts of many of our parishioners. And finally, we began our Annual Pledge Program which asks parishioners to pledge money for 2008 to help the church cover its expenses to run the St. Nicholas next year.

Fundraising activities for the Building Expansion Project have started and include mailings of letters and brochures to parishioners; description of the space expansion and financial needs by Fr. David and Al Foundos, both during services and during coffee hour; individual contacts and visits with parishioners by Parish Council and Fundraising Committee members, and finally financial commitments by parishioners to support this Project. Contacts and visits will be continuing. To meet the needs of St. Nicholas, all of us must give serious consideration to treating our church as being very important in our lives and to sacrifice by making a generous financial commitment to be paid over 1, 2 or 3 years. Please remember, this Commitment is over and above the annual pledge needed to operate the church.

Be ready to do your part!!!!

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By Adelina Llupa

Kete radhe po japim lutjen e Shen Terezes, dhe nje pjese nga vjersha "Bukurija" e Naim Frasherit. Shen Tereza eshte shenjtorja e bemave te "vogla". Ajo besonte se gjerat e vogla kane rendesi te madhe ne jete pot e behen mire dhe me dashuri...

"Sot, befsh paqe me vehten; beso se Zoti te ka cuar aty ku duhet te jesh. Le te kujtosh gjithmone mundesite e pafundshme qe te sjell besimi; Perdori mire keto cilesi te dhuruara q eke dhe transmeto dashurine qe te eshte dhene.

Kenaqu duke ditur se je femi I Zotit; Le te penetroje prezenca e Tij nder kocka; Lejoje shpirtin tend te lire te kendoje, te vallezoje, te thur laved dhe te dashuroje; Ai eshte atje per kedo nga ne qe duam t'a shohim..."

BUKURIJA ... Naum Frasheri

M'iku me vrap djaleria
E me la mbi dhe te shkrete,
Me erdh striga pleqeria
Pshehtazi, si qen'i qete.
O popo ! C'me gjjet, o shoke,
Do te qanj me thes ne koke,
O ditet e djalarise,
Qe kishit shume gezime

Rate ne det t'arratise,
Me late ne hidherime !
Tani jetene c'e dua,
Me s'esht'e shkrete per mua,
Tio o bukuroshja ime !
Te rite m'a pac per jete,
Kurre mos pac hidherime !
Te dashte zot' I vertete !
Syri yt mos u venitte.

The Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

By the time you receive this issue of the Post, the Flea Market/Bake Sale will have taken place. A full report will be included the December issue of the Post.

In the meantime, we need MESHE every Sunday for communion. If you can bake, please try to make one or two once a month so that we will always have a supply on hand. If you are interested in buying the Seal or Meshalnike, please see Christina Liolin to place an order.

To all of those who contributed to the success of the Flea Market/Bake Sale a heartfelt THANK YOU!!! Volunteers baked, donated items, worked preparing the sale, worked the sale weekend, worked in the kitchen, etc. It certainly takes a team effort, and we did it!!

We will be having a meeting in late November to review December events: St. Nicholas luncheon and Christmas activities. We will coordinate with the Parish Council and the Sunday School to see how the Daughters can help. We will also discuss future activities. Watch for details.



Flea Market and Bake Sale - A SUCCESS!!!!!!

A "Special Thanks" to All of You who helped make this Event a Success. An article with Details and many Photos will be in next month's ORTHODOX POST.

Church Singing



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. Every Sunday, 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. Every Tuesday evening following Adult Study (8:15 – 8:45pm, 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.

Sunday School News

By Kerri Fox

A thank you to our great teachers – you are a dedicated bunch and I just wanted you to know how much we appreciate all the time and effort you put into your classes here at St. Nicholas.



Can you believe it is just about that time of year that we begin preparation for our Christmas Pageant. We are so excited as we always have many children come during this time/

We invite all of you to come out and be part of this special tradition. We ask that if your child is going to be in the pageant, that you please make every effort to be in church every Sunday so that the children can prepare and the pageant can be as wonderful as possible. It is only fair that those children who do come every Sunday get to participate rather than someone showing up a week or two beforehand.

This year we have a new transcript and we also will have Nathan helping our children with songs.

It is really exciting and we are looking forward to it.

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church building, heat, Sunday school supplies for the children, and of course, church bulletins. Consider this for one moment: How much do our television(s) cost? How much we spend to go out to eat? Consider how much we pay to go to the dentist just once or even a plumber to come and fix our toilets, and compare this with the \$300 that most of us give to the Church for an entire year. This is less than \$1/day and not even half of what it actually takes to cover the current costs of St. Nicholas Church. Today, I am thankful for that bulletin with all the mistakes because it is tool to help us look at ourselves, and to ask: what do we expect? We know the saying: "You get what you pay for." The Lord said, "Where your treasure is, there is your heart also." So if we compare how much we give to the Church vs. what we give for many other things in life, what does that tell us about the treasure of our hearts?

This may feel awkward for the priest to be saying this. We priests are tempted to feel as if we are putting our hat in our hand and begging for money. Shame on us priests! Because it's not about us at all!! Priests come and go. How much we give to the Church is about us, it is about how we value our own soul. The Lord said, "What will a man give in exchange for his soul?" and "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his own soul?" I once heard someone say, "If you want to know the true theology of a Church, do not look at their Bibles or Liturgies: look at their financial statements." What are our financial statements telling us about what priority we are placing our own souls?

My calling as priest is not to be a financial expert. Others in our parish have this calling. These brothers tell us that it takes \$700 a year from each family to cover the costs of St. Nicholas Church. This is less than \$2 a day. If we are not giving at least \$700/yr to the St. Nicholas parish,

we have to understand that somebody else is paying our share, that we are on a kind of 'welfare.' I am not begging you for money: I am asking each family of this parish to invest a little less than \$2 a day collectively in their souls. I do not believe that this is too much, certainly not to most of us.

May the Lord bless our giving to His Holy Church, and make us worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Your friend,
+Fr. David

Fall Schedule at St. Nicholas

Tuesday Nights: Adult Education

Every Tuesday in November, from 7:00 – 8:15 pm, we will meet to study important topics for anyone who desires to know God: What is prayer? We will resume with using **The Orthodox Way** by Bishop Kallistos. If you need a book, please see Peter Panajoti.

Adult Choir instruction will follow these sessions for 30 minutes, (8:15 – 8:45pm). See page 3 for more details.

Readers

We need readers at St. Nicholas. Every Sunday, the Reader Nathan will be available to meet before the Liturgy (9:15 am) to help anyone who wishes to learn to read (i.e., plain chant) in church.

Servers

Serving in the altar is not just for boys: we need men who can help Fr. David, especially those who can read Albanian. Beginning Sunday, October 7th, the Reader Nathan will be available to meet just before Liturgy (9:45 am) to help teach how to serve.

Community News

By Linda Foundos

- Belated congratulations to Reader Nathan Preston as he graduated from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary this past summer. While at the Seminary, he served as the Sacristan which meant he was the one who trained seminary students how to serve, sing and read. It was quite an honor to be chosen for this important function. We are blessed to have Nathan among us. Many blessings!!
- For the first time in six years, Elsa, Irma Mile's mother, returned to Albania. She spent a month visiting with her two brothers and their families in Tirane. What joy to reconnect with family and to see the children and grand-children grown up. It was a beautiful and emotional journey as she retraced the steps of her life. She was missed her in New York!!
- A very happy, happy birthday to Sylvana Kutali as she celebrated a special birthday. Her family hosted a lovely party in her honor. What a sweet thing to do, and fun for everyone! Sylvana and her family have been an active part of our community for many years. We wish her many more happy and healthy years.
- Baby News! Victoria Maria was born Thursday, October 4, 2007 to Andrew & Gema Naum. Congratulations to the proud parents and grandparents, Helen & Peter Panajoti. What a beautiful blessing, and it just so happens that Victoria was born on the birthday of her great grandmother Theodora Naum, Helen Panajoti's mother, who was one of the pillars of St. Nicholas. May God bless them all with a healthy, long and joyous life.
- We send a "shout out" to Rosalie Zacharias who has been homebound with complications from diabetes. We miss you Rosie!! We wish you speedy healing.
- We would like to send our warmest greetings to several who have not been able to attend services for extended period of time – Mary Pillary, Georgina Ligore. You are definitely missed and certainly not forgotten.
- Per shume vjet! to Ilia Luka who was celebrated on his 50th birthday with a great, surprise party given by his family. Ilia is a Parish Council member who is always so generous with his time, talent and donations to St. Nicholas with a smile. He is very much appreciated. We wish him a very happy, happy birthday and many more.
- Congratulations to Larry Jance, who celebrated his 70th anniversary in America on Sunday October 21. He was only 15 when he came to America, and as the saying goes, the rest is history. May God grant him many more years !
- Steven Foundos & Damian Peters traveled to Philadelphia to participate in the Albanian American National Organization National Officers Meeting. Steve is the National Treasurer and Damian the Board of Governor representing the New York Chapter. Good job, Gentlemen!! Thank you for your efforts and dedication.
- May God bless the union of Eduart Shkurti and Masrsela Rehova who were married on Sunday, October 7th. We wish them a joyous life together. Congratulations to the happy couple and their families.

Major Feast Days in November

November 8

Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the other Bodiless Powers

November 21 (Vespers on November 20 at 7 pm)

Forefeast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos

Major Church Activities and Events

Meetings & Events:

New time for Choir Rehearsals:

Tuesdays, 8:15 – 8:45 pm

Tues Nov 6: Adult Education, 7:00 – 8:15 pm
Nov 13: Adult Education, 7:00 - 8:15 pm
Nov 20: Adult Education, 7:00 - 8:15 pm
Nov 27: Adult Education, 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Sun Nov 11: Antoinette Echenique Memorial,
after Divine Liturgy

Wed Nov 14: Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

Tues Nov 20: Vesperal Liturgy for the Feast of the
Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into
The Temple, 7 pm

Wed Dec 5: Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Nov 04: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
Nov 11: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
Nov 18: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka
Nov 25: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
Dec 2: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos
Dec 9: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
Dec 16: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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