

# 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

**A Christmas Present:**

**A Prayer for Preparing for Holy Communion,**  
by **St. John Chrysostom**

O Lord my God, I know that I am not worthy nor sufficient that You should enter under my roof into the House of my soul, for it is deserted and in ruins, and You do not have a fitting place in me to lay Your head. But as from the heights of Your Glory when You humbled Yourself, so now bear me in my humility. As you chose to lie in a manger in a cave, so now come into the manger of my mute soul and corrupt body...Grant that I may partake of Your All-holy Body and Precious Blood for the sanctification, enlightenment and strengthening of my weak soul and body, for relief from the burden of my many sins, for preservation against all snares of the devil, for

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message & President's Message	1
Daughters of St. Nicholas & Kendi Shqip	2
Building Project Update	3
Legal Seminar Information	4
New Metropolitan & Community News	5&6
The Month's Major Feast Days	7
Major Events & Ushers' Sunday Schedule	8

victory over all my sinful habits, for the mortification of my passions...For it is not with a careless heart that I approach Thee, O Christ my God, but I come trusting in Thine infinite goodness...I implore Thee, O Master, Who alone art Holy, sanctify my soul and body, my mind and heart and body, and renew me entirely...through the prayers of all the Saints, who from all ages have been well-pleasing unto Thee. Amen.

## President's Message

By Bill Peters

There are many important things happening at St. Nicholas and within the national church. Here in our Church, we will be celebrating the St. Nicholas Feast Day with a visit from Bishop Nikon for Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Liturgy which will be followed by a luncheon at a nearby restaurant. Also, we will be celebrating the holiday season with the Sunday School's Christmas Pageant followed by a Pancake Breakfast and a visit from Santa. Other activities are described in this newsletter and by the major activities list on page 8.

We have started our mailings and discussions on the 2009 Pledge Program. Everyone is asked to make the best pledge they can and return the card to the Church. Remember, your Pledge can be paid off throughout the whole of next year using the pledge envelopes.

Progress is being made with our Building Expansion Project, but we are still waiting for approval to begin from the New York City Buildings Department. To avoid construction problems due to cold winter weather, construction is planned for early Spring. A letter from Lou Foundos on Page 3 provides a detailed update.

Our Church and the Albanian Archdiocese as part of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) have a new Metropolitan. At the All American Council held in Pittsburg, PA last month more than 700 delegates including lay and clergy representatives from parishes throughout the USA, Canada and Mexico as well as the OCA bishops elected Bishop Jonah as our new Metropolitan. See Page 5 for more details. This plus the recent restructuring of the Chancery organization provide a fresh beginning for the OCA.

Here's wishing all of you and your families a joyous and blessed Christmas Season!!!

## Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

We tried something new on November 9<sup>th</sup>, and it was well received and a financial success too. Many thanks to all those that helped to make our fund raiser Luncheon such a wonderful event. Special thanks to Christine Beno, Joanne Heiser, Viola Kallinikos, Alexandra Liolin, Elizabeth Liolin, Adelina Llupa, Pauline Logore, Agathia Luka, Irma Mile, Helen Panajoti, Albana Pavllo and Tina Peters for all their efforts shopping, cooking, serving, selling and cleaning up. Thanks also to Larry Jance, Mark Papalexis and Nasi Pavllo. We also greatly appreciated all the homemade baked goods that some of you were kind enough to donate for our bake sale. And, of course, a huge thank you to all of you that stayed to enjoy lunch with friends and support the Daughters' luncheon. A 50/50 raffle was also held. Daniel Oswald picked the winning ticket which belonged to John Jance. John was so gracious and generous as to donate his winnings back to the Daughters. Thank you very much, John.

We are putting a call out for volunteers to be added to our Coffee Hour Hospitality List. Please don't be shy. We need some new hosts. Christina Liolin and Adelina Llupa manage this listing. Please see one of them to be included in this hospitality rotation. You'll be glad you did!! Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

During the month of December, the Daughters will run a raffle at our St. Nicholas Dinner and host our annual Christmas Pancake Breakfast. Watch for details, and come and join us.

### St. Nicholas Day Celebration Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Bishop Nikon**  
Joins Us  
for

### Sunday Liturgy and Luncheon

**COME ONE, COME ALL**

Buy Your Tickets to the Luncheon at  
Church during November

**ADULT \$35 CHILD \$15**

No Tickets will be sold at the Luncheon

## KENDI SHQIP (The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Dhjetor, 2008

Këtë muaj po fillojmë të japim një pjesë nga Ungjilli i Lukës dhe do të vazhdojmë në muajt pasardhës deri në Pashkën e 2009–ës, sipas Fr. David i cili na këshilloi të fillojmë të studjojmë Librin e Lukës, dhe një pjesë për Skënderbeun nga Naimi.

### Shpallja e Lindjes së Jezusit

Në muajin e gjashtë të barrës së Elisabetes, Perëndia e dërgoi engjëllin Gavriel në Nazaret, në Galile te një virgjreshë me emrin Mari. Ajo ishte e fejuar me një njeri të quajtur Jozef, që ishte nga fisi i mbretit David. Engjëlli erdhi tek Maria dhe i tha: "Të përshendes Mari! Zoti është me ty; Ai të ka zgjedhur për gjëra të mëdha!" Maria u trëmb nga kjo përshëndetje dhe u mendua për kuptimin e saj. Engjëlli vazhdoi: "Mos ki frikë, Mari sepse Perëndia të ka zgjedhur që të lindësh Mesinë! Ti do të mbetesh shtatzëne dhe do të lindësh një djalë. Do t'ia vësh emrin Jezus. Ai do të jetë i madh dhe do të quhet Bir i të Lartit (Perëndi). Zoti Perëndi do t'ia japë mbretërinë e Davidit, stërgjyshit të tij. Ai do të sundojë përgjithmonë mbi pasardhësit e Jaakovit. Sundimi i tij do të jetë i pafund."

Maria e pyeti engjëllin: "Si do të ndodhë kjo? Unë jam akoma e virgjër!" Ai u përgjigj: "Shpirti i Zotit do të zbresë mbi ty dhe fuqia e tij do ta realizojë këtë. Për këtë arsye ky fëmijë që do ta lindësh, do të quhet i shenjtë, Biri i Perëndisë. Edhe Elisabeta, kushërira jote, pret t'i lindë djalë –me gjithë moshën e saj të thyer. Ajo është tashmë në muajin e gjashtë të barrës, megjithatë njerzit thoshin për atë se s'mund të lindë femijë. S'ka asgjë të pamundur për Perëndinë." "Unë jam plotësisht në dorë të Zotit. Le të ndodhë kështu si the." Pastaj engjëlli u largua nga ajo.

Skënderbeut i Shtiret i Jati në Endërr...

Qysh mund të lësh Shqipërinë	S'të vjen keq për shqiptarët
Në kurth e në të këqia	e për Shqipërinë e mjerë?
E të vuash për Turqinë?	E s'të merr, biro, të qarët?
C'të mirë pe nga Turqia?	Që humbi liri e nderë?

## Building Expansion Project Update Letter

Dear Parishioner:

Our Building Expansion Project is progressing and will begin construction in the early Spring due to delays in building permit issuance by the New York City Buildings Department!

Since we have all been anxiously waiting to see some signs that the construction is finally beginning, we decided to provide you with a status report on the Church Expansion Project.

Needless to say this is a major step for St. Nicholas, so we have had to make sure that we are taking all the necessary correct steps. We have hired an architect, structural engineer, professional mechanical engineer and an expeditor who has been submitting the drawings and dealing with the New York City (NYC) bureaucracy. We have gone through several designs in the process, and now all the drawings have been completed. We ran into a major issue where NYC could not find our Certificate of Occupancy (CO). We could not proceed without this, and this delayed us about 8 weeks. After several visits to the Building Department, they finally located the original CO which allowed us to proceed with filing submissions.

The first set of drawings has been submitted, and we have received a list of 17 objections. Only 4 or 5 are meaningful objections, and the rest are minor. Before they will accept another submission however, they are requiring that we do borings tests in the ground for the concrete work and the dry wells. We are obtaining 2 proposals and expect the boring samples to be taken within the next 10 days. After we get the reports we can resubmit the drawing package. Once the first drawings are approved, we will submit a second set for the balcony

Since there will be digging and concrete work involved, concerns have been raised about weather and where it makes more sense to delay the start of work until the hard part of the winter is over. If we start the project and run into some snow or a period of very cold temperatures, then the project will be stopped in the middle. Therefore, the committee, after much discussion, has decided to start the construction in early Spring after the heavy winter months have passed. We are all frustrated and disappointed with this delay but working with NYC is never easy, and weather is beyond our control. We will keep you informed of future progress.

During this period, we continue to need everyone's support for the Project in order for it to be successful. Please continue to talk-up ongoing fundraising activities and fulfill your personal Building Project Financial Commitment.

Lou Foundos

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Building Expansion Project Chairman

# ***St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church*** ***Presents***

## **The Legal Aspects of**

**1) Buying a Home**

**2) Immigration Petitions**

**Date: December 6, 2008**

**Time 4:00 PM**

## **Place**

**St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church  
181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, NY 11432**

*This seminar is offered by St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church to help first time homebuyers understand the legal steps of purchasing a home. Come and learn about issues such as the legal consequences of a legally binding contract, find the answers to most commonly asked questions such as what is title insurance; what risks are covered; how much does title insurance cost and other closing matters.*

*The second part of the seminar will address issues of family-based immigration petitions such as eligibility and the legal process of reuniting with loved ones. The legal process of becoming a U.S. Citizen will be covered as well.*

## **Refreshments**

**FREE ADMITANCE, PLEASE RSVP!**

For parking, RSVP and further inquiries, please call

Tom Beno  
(917) 952-9252

Ken Gjika  
(917) 584-2492

## **Sunday Retreat to Covenant House**

Many thanks to all those who drove and came to last week's field trip to Covenant House in Newark, NJ. We had about 30 adults and youth come from our parish, who met 4 homeless youth and heard their stories, did a role play with them about 'What would you do if you found yourself homeless?', toured the facilities, and joined the together to offer a prayer with the youth in the chapel. One of our own, Jim Christo, offered a beautiful prayer.

## Bishop Jonah of Fort Worth Elected Metropolitan of All America and Canada



On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, His Grace, Bishop Jonah of Fort Worth was elected Archbishop of Washington and New York and Metropolitan of All America and Canada at the 15<sup>th</sup> All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America held in Pittsburg, PA.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, was born James Paffhausen in Chicago, IL, and was baptized into the Episcopal Church. His family later settled in La Jolla, CA, near San Diego. He was received into the Orthodox Church in 1978 at Our Lady of Kazan Moscow Patriarchal Church, while a student at the University of California, San Diego. Later, he transferred to UC Santa Cruz, where he was instrumental in establishing an Orthodox Christian Fellowship. After completing studies at UCSC, he attended St. Vladimir's Seminary, graduating with a Master of Divinity degree in 1985 and a Master of Theology in Dogmatics in 1988. He went on to pursue studies towards a Ph.D. at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, but interrupted those studies to spend a year in Russia. He was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in 1994 and in 1995 was tonsured to monastic rank at St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA, having received the name Jonah.

In the spring of 2008, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America elevated Fr. Jonah to the rank of Archimandrite. He was given the obedience to leave the monastery and take on the responsibilities of auxiliary bishop and chancellor for the Diocese of the South. Bishop Jonah's episcopal election took place on September 4, 2008, at an extraordinary meeting of the Holy Synod of Bishops. Earlier in the summer, his candidacy was endorsed by the Diocese of the South's Diocesan Council, shortly after Bishop Jonah had participated in the diocese's annual assembly. Metropolitan Jonah will be installed by the OCA's Holy Synod of Bishops at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, DC, on December 28, 2008.

May the Lord bless His Beatitude, Jonah, newly-elected Metropolitan of All America and Canada with many years of fruitful service in His Holy Vineyard.

*Eis polla eti, Despota!*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

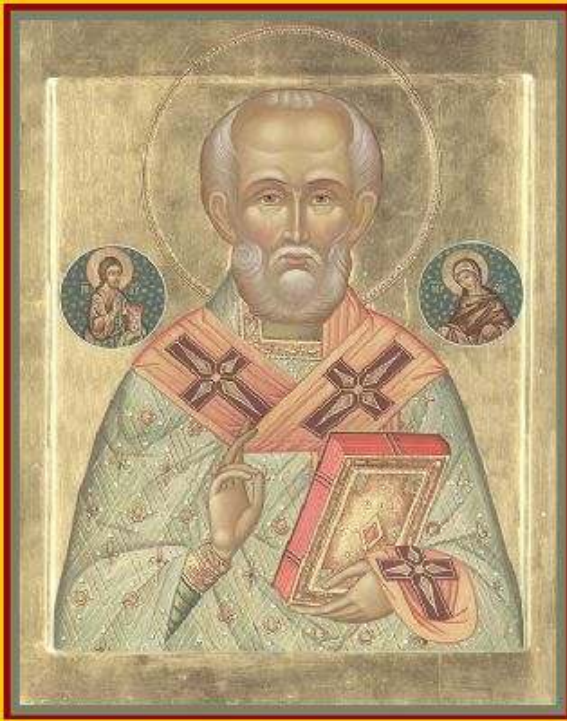
By Linda Foundos

- **November 28<sup>th</sup> was Albanian Flag Day, Gezuar Diten E Flamurit!, Happy Albanian Flag Day!**
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Edi Sera on the passing of his mother, Bajame, after her brave battle with cancer for many years. She and her husband, Balil, raised a beautiful family of 3 sons, Edi, Altin & Ilir, and a daughter, Sonila, who went on to marry and produced 7 precious grandchildren. Bajame will be greatly missed, but will always remain in the hearts of her loved ones. May her memory be eternal.
- Get well wishes go out to Diana Beno as she recovers from a fall in her home. Please keep her in your prayers as we wish her a speedy recovery. She is very appreciative of Dhimiter who is doing a fine job of caring for her.
- Our prayers and wishes for good health go out to Florida to Baby Elizabeth Jones and her family.
- Our prayers also go out to the mother of Adelina Llupa who is ill in Albania.
- Our prayers also go out to Lele Hysi.
- It's baby blue again for Anila and Vasken Gjika!!! Baby Alexander was born on October 24<sup>th</sup> weighing a healthy 8 lbs. 9 oz. Big brother Chrissien is so happy to have a baby brother to play with (eventually). May God bless all of the family. We wish Alexander a very long, healthy and happy life. All the best.
- We send our warm greetings to Helen Pillary at the Chapin Home. Some of the Daughters have surprised Helen with a visit and found her to be looking and feeling very well. However, Helen is missing her St. Nicholas family as we miss her too.
- Rosalie Zacharias' rehabilitation at Highfield Garden Care is going well with much patience and perseverance. We miss you, Rosie. We look forward to your return. Keep up the good work.
- Welcome back to Al Foundos who travelled to Australia where he enjoyed a visit with family from coast to coast.
- Our prayers and good wishes go out to Anna Liberta, the mother of Christina Liolin, who has been ill. Her husband, Mario, is doing his best caring for his life-long partner.
- Wedding bells were ringing in CT for Mark Nikola and AnnMarie Pomponio at the Water's Edge in Westbrook. Mark is the nephew of Gloria Dalaku Sawyer and son of Mary Dalaku Nikola. May their love and respect for each other deepen with each day; and may they make many beautiful memories together as they go through life.
- May God bless the recently baptized little Eva Kondili, daughter of Nevila and John Kondili, granddaughter of Lina and Fotaq Kondili. Best wishes to all the family.
- Congratulations to the newly engaged Sara McGovern and Andrea Luka, son of Agathia and Ilia Luka. The happy couple is making plans for a wedding in the fall of 2009. Ahhhh, to be young and so in love!! We wish them and their families much happiness.
- A Two-Year Memorial Service was held for Kidanemariam Tuku on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our prayers go out to his wife, Miriam, and family. Prayers were also offered for Britu Haile's deceased mother, Tsedalemariam. May their memories be eternal.

## FEAST DAYS

### St Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

**Commemorated on December 6th**



Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. St Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St Nicholas. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. St Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured was also restored to health.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

Having reached old age, St Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now. The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.



**Greatmartyr Barbara  
At Heliopolis, in Syria  
December 4**



**St. Spyridon the  
Wonderworker  
December 12**



**Greatmartyr Anastasia  
"Deliverer From Potions"  
December 22**



**Protomartyr and  
Archdeacon Stephen  
December 27**

## Major Church Activities and Events

**Nativity Fast: From November 15<sup>th</sup> to December 24<sup>th</sup>  
After Liturgy**

**Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Tues, Dec 02**

**Sun, Dec 07: St. Nicholas Day Liturgy & Luncheon  
With Bishop Nikon**

**Sun, Dec 21: Sunday School Christmas Pageant,  
Pancake Breakfast & Santa's Visit  
Following Liturgy**

**Christmas Services:  
Wed, Dec 24: Christmas Eve service, 7 p.m.**

**Adult Study in December:  
Wed, Dec 3 at 7 p.m.  
Wed, Dec 10 at 7 p.m.**

## Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kisha

**Nov 30: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile**  
**Dec 07: Andrea Kutali / John Jance**  
**Dec 14: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra**  
**Dec 21: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera**  
**Dec 24: Special Christmas Eve Ushers**  
**Dec 28: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka**  
**Jan 04: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos**

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.stnicholasalbanian.org](http://www.stnicholasalbanian.org)

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