

# 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,*

*FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO HELP OTHERS:*

*(From the Diary of Fr. Alexander Elcheninoff)*

*You cannot cure the soul  
of others or "help people" without having changed  
yourself.*

*You cannot put in order  
the spiritual economy of others, so long as there is  
chaos in your own soul.*

*You cannot bring peace  
to others if you do not  
have it yourself.*

*Often, we help other people not by a series of  
conscious acts directed upon their soul, but rather,  
by influencing them  
through our spiritual gifts, without ourselves seeing  
or knowing how we do so.*

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*Once Anthony the Great asked a visitor, who said  
nothing at all, "Why do you not ask me anything?"  
and the visitor answered, 'It is enough for me to look  
at you, holy father.'*

*Fr. David continues to meet with the children  
after Liturgy to read stories from the Bible and to  
answer their questions.*

*Your friend,  
+Fr. David*

## President's Message

By Bill Peters

The year 2008 will be a very important year for not only our St. Nicholas Church, but also for our Albanian Archdiocese and the Orthodox Church in America (OCA).

At St. Nicholas, we will be finalizing our plans for expansion of our church building – Sunday school classrooms, seating, elevator, storage space and other building improvements. This Building Expansion to better serve the needs of the community will only be made possible by the successful continuation of fundraising and the generous financial commitments of parishioners and friends of the church. Many parishioners have made commitments and about one-third of their

commitments have already been turned over to the church. The Committee will be reaching out and contacting those of you who have not yet made a commitment. Meet with the Committee and do your best to support the Expansion. To make the Building Expansion possible, all parishioners must make a commitment. The Parish General Meeting on Sunday, March 30th will provide an important update to all.

The Albanian Archdiocese is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Major events in Boston will occur on March 9<sup>th</sup> and the September 26–28 weekend. We should try to participate in some of the related events. Page 4 provides more details.

Finally, the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) is holding its "All American Council" November 10–13 in Pittsburg, PA. Details will be in the March Post.

## Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

We've been having some pretty low temperatures. Many have been struggling with the flu, but still it's been nice to see church full and always some new faces. The Daughters' have been on a little break from activities after the holidays, but we will be starting up again very soon. Let's look forward to a Daughters luncheon, an outing and a community activity.

If you are able to provide a meshe for our services, it would be greatly appreciated. We always need volunteers. Also if you or someone you know would like to be included in our coffee host rotation listing, please notify Christina Liolin. It's a very hospitable and nice gesture. Our sincere thanks to Christina Liolin who has been coordinating the coffee host listing for many years. Even with its many challenges, she has managed to keep it running so smoothly.

We are very fortunate to have located some beautiful Holy Water Vessels to grace your home. The ceramic vessel comes in 2 sizes and will be available for sale in church. Please see Christina Liolin or Linda Foundos.

### HOLY WATER VESSELS



*See Christina or Linda*

## KENDI SHQIP (The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Shkurt 2008

Këtë muaj po japim nje pjesë për lutjen dhe një vjershë nga Fan Noli

...Lutja, disa herë është përkufizuar si një dialog me Perëndinë. Është një dialog qetësie, mbajtur në qetësinë e zemrave tona. Lutja është ngritja e mendjes dhe e zemrës të Perëndia, qëndrimi në praninë e Tij, vetëdija dhe kujtimi i pandërprerë i emrit, fuqisë dhe dashurisë së Tij. Ai që nuk i lutet Perëndisë, nuk mund të jetë pasues i Krishtit. Të gjitha virtutet dhe fuqitë e Perëndisë arrihen, kryesisht, nga lutja. Pa lutjen, nuk ka jetë shpirtërore.

“ Në qoftë se nuk lutemi me gjithë shpirt çdo ditë, shumë shpejt ne do të vdesim shpirtërisht” (Shën Joani ne Kronshtad)

Në kishën Orthodokse, të gjitha lutjet janë Trinitare. Ne lutemi në Shpirtin e Shenjtë, me anë të Jezu Krishtit, Birit të Perëndisë dhe në emrin e Tij, të Perëndia Atë.

Kryqësimi

Fan S. Noli

Po troket çekani  
Po kërcet mejdani  
Dor' e Këmb' i çpon,  
Krishtin kryqëson.

Çdo peronë plagë  
Përvëlton si flagë  
Çurka gjak buron  
Fryhet dhe pikon.

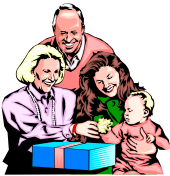
Me tërbim goditin  
Me gjëmim e ngjitin  
Turma ulërin  
Nëna Blegërin.

Kryqet ngulen, shtisen  
Tallen, qesëndisen;  
Sipërkryqë tre,  
Tri Mari përdhe.

## Community News

By Linda Foundos

- A pink bundle of joy has arrived at the home of Drilona and Ralf Sheti. Alyssa was born on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> weighing in at 6 pounds 2 ounces. Congratulations to the very proud and excited parents and also the grandparents, Dr. Perikli and Kozara Sheti. May God bless Alyssa with a very long, healthy and happy life. A new life begins. A new life to hold, mold and love. All the best to all the family.
- A health update on baby Elizabeth Jones, newborn daughter of Diane (Jance) & Steve Jones, granddaughter of Larry Jance and niece of John Jance. Elizabeth recently underwent another surgery for a rather rare problem. The doctors are pleased with her recovery. Her outlook is good. Her twin sister, Sofia, is doing well, strong and healthy and growing ever so quickly. Thank you all for your prayers and concerns.
- Tina and Bill Peters recently had very special visitors from Switzerland. It was their daughter Alexis and two grand daughters, Skyler and Sophia. The family celebrated the holidays together and Sophia's third birthday on January 8<sup>th</sup>. A great time was had by all.
- On Sunday, January 20, the Llupa family offered a lovely breakfast to remember their precious daughter Arba Ana Llupa in Heaven who would have celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 21<sup>st</sup>. She departed from this life in July 2000. She is forever in the hearts of all who knew her. May her memory be eternal.
- January 21<sup>st</sup> was a significant day in the lives of the Fox family. Happy, happy birthday to Fr. David. We hope your day was a joyous one. May you live, as they say in Albanian, as old as the mountains!!! We wish you all the best.
- Our deepest sympathy to Rosalie Zacharias on the passing of her brother-in-law Michael Rockmore. Michael, only 55 years old, underwent surgery to remove a tumor from his spine and passed away a few days later. May his memory be eternal. We wish for comfort to his wife Louise and their family.

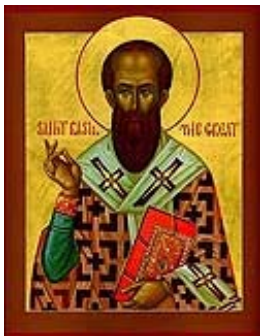


### HEALTHCARE INFORMATION SEMINAR

#### A SUCCESS!!!!!!

Thank you to Tomi Beno, Beti Tsamblakos and Anila Gjika for arranging the Healthcare Information Seminar held on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended and very informative. Plans are in the works for new topic seminars in the future. Please take advantage of these sessions. They are free of charge and refreshments are served as well.

### ICON AUCTION A SUCCESS!!!!



The Icon Presentation and Auction held on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> was very successful!!!! The event was very well attended. The Icons were presented with informative comments and there was very spirited bidding, resulting in record Icon donations for the Church.

Fr. David and the Parish Council are interested in parishioner thoughts as to what other Icons have meaning for them and which should be added to the presentation list.

Contact Fr. David, Jim Liolin or Petrika Troja with your Icon thoughts.

## HOUSE BLESSINGS

SIGN UP NOW !!!



Father David will be visiting your area for a House blessing. See schedule below. There will be a maximum of 3 home blessings each night.

Please make plans for his visit. Make an appointment with Fr. David by phone (201 841-7590) or email (snickny@aol.com).

Tues, Jan 29<sup>th</sup>: Long Island North Shore  
 Thurs, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>: Long Island South Shore  
 Tues, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: New Jersey.  
 Thurs, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>: Astoria & Manhattan  
 Thurs, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>: Ridgewood



**SEPTEMBER 27, 2008**

*Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America*

**GRAND GALA  
 CELEBRATION**



**SEAPORT HOTEL  
 WORLD TRADE CENTER  
 BOSTON, MA  
 (next to Anthony's Pier 4)**

[www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html](http://www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html)

## Albanian Archdiocese Centennial Year Celebrations

In 2008, the Albanian Archdiocese will celebrate its 100 year anniversary with several major events.

On Forgiveness Sunday, March 9, there will be a Hierarchal Liturgy at Saint George Cathedral in Boston. This represents the actual date closest to the Centennial. A Banquet Luncheon with speakers shall take place at Anthony's Pier 4 following liturgy. Luncheon is \$65 per person. In addition, an exhibit and reception will be held in the Athanas Auditorium at the Cathedral. Parishioners who join us that day are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

A Reminder: **The Centennial Gala Weekend** will be **September 26-28 in Boston**. Events will include our Annual Archdiocese Assembly (Friday, Sept 26), The Gala 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (Saturday, Sept 27) and The Hierarchal Liturgy at the Cathedral (Sunday, Sept 28).

Also, there shall be Special Services in other locales, during the course of the Centennial Year. His Grace is expected to remember Saint Raphael, who as Bishop Raphael (Hawaweeny) ordained Theofan Noli to the holy diaconate. A concelebrated liturgy is being arranged at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Manhattan, where Metropolitan Platon ordained Noli to the holy priesthood. It was also there that Saint Alexander (Hotovitsky) had served as dean and offered Noli his first vestments and sacred articles for use in the opening of the first mission among our people in Boston. You will be advised when plans are firm for these special commemorations.

For updated information, check the website below:  
[www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html](http://www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html)

## This Month's Major Feast Days

### Hieromartyr Charalampus the Bishop of Magnesia in Thessaly Commemorated on February 10



The Hieromartyr Charalampus, Bishop of Magnesia, the Martyrs Porphyrius and Baptus and Three Women Martyrs suffered in the year 202. St Charalampus, Bishop of Magnesia (Asia Minor), successfully spread faith in Christ the Savior, guiding people on the way to salvation. News of his preaching reached Lucian, the governor of the district, and the military commander Lucius. The saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

Despite the bishop's advanced age (he was 113 years old), he was subjected to monstrous tortures. They lacerated his body with iron hooks, and scraped all the skin from his body. During this the saint turned to his tormentors, "I thank you, brethren, that you have restored my spirit, which longs to pass over to a new and everlasting life!" Seeing the Elder's endurance and his complete lack of malice, two soldiers (Porphyrius and Baptus) openly confessed Christ, for which they were immediately beheaded with a sword. Three women who were watching the sufferings of St Charalampus also began to glorify Christ, and were quickly martyred.

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The enraged Lucius seized the instruments of torture and began to torture the holy martyr, but suddenly his forearms were cut off as if by a sword. The governor then spat in the face of the saint, and immediately his head was turned around so that he faced backwards. Then Lucius entreated the saint to show mercy on him, and both torturers were healed through the prayers of St Charalampus. During this a multitude of witnesses came to believe in Christ. Among them also was Lucius, who fell at the feet of the holy bishop, asking to be baptized.

Lucian reported these events to the emperor Septimus Severus, who was then at Pisidian Antioch (western Asia Minor). The emperor ordered St Charalampus to be brought to him in Antioch. Soldiers twisted the saint's beard into a rope, wound it around his neck, and used it to drag him along. They also drove an iron nail into his body. The emperor then ordered them to torture the bishop more intensely, and they began to burn him with fire, a little at a time. But God protected the saint, and he remained unharmed.

Many miracles were worked through his prayer: he raised a dead youth, and healed a man tormented by devils for thirty-five years, so that many people began to believe in Christ the Savior. Even Galina, the daughter of the emperor, began to believe in Christ, and twice smashed the idols in a pagan temple. On the orders of the emperor they beat the saint about the mouth with stones. They also wanted to set his beard on fire, but the flames burned the torturer.

Full of wickedness, Septimus Severus and an official named Crispus hurled blasphemy at the Lord, mockingly summoning Him to come down to the earth, and boasting of their own power and might. The Lord sent an earthquake, and great fear fell upon all, the impious ones were both suspended in mid-air held by invisible bonds, and only by the prayer of the saint were they put down. The dazed emperor was shaken in his former impiety, but again quickly fell into error and gave orders to torture the saint.

And finally, he sentenced St Charalampus to beheading with a sword. During his final prayer, the heavens opened and the saint saw the Savior and a multitude of angels. The holy martyr asked Him to grant that the place where his relics would repose would never suffer famine or disease. He also begged that there would be peace, prosperity, and an abundance of fruit, grain, and wine in that place, and that the souls of these people would be saved. The Lord promised to fulfill his request and ascended to heaven, and the soul of the hieromartyr Charalampus followed after Him. By the mercy of God, the saint died before he could be executed. Galina buried the martyr's body with great honor.

## Major Church Activities and Events

February : House Blessings by Fr. David  
Tues, Feb 5: New Jersey  
Thurs, Feb 7: Astoria & Manhattan  
Thurs, Feb 14: Ridgewood

Sat, Feb 02: The Meeting of Our Lord,  
Jesus Christ, In the Temple  
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Tues, Feb 05: Parish Council Meeting – 7:00 pm

Tues, Mar 04: Parish Council Meeting – 7:00 pm

Sun, Mar 30: Parish Annual General Meeting  
After Liturgy

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

Feb 03: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori  
Feb 10: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile  
Feb 17: Andrea Kutali / John Jance  
Feb 24: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra  
Mar 02: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera  
Mar 09: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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