

# THE ORTHODOX POST

October - November  
2008  
Volume IV, Issue 9



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432  
Web site: [www.stnicholasalbanian.org](http://www.stnicholasalbanian.org) E-mail: [snickny@aol.com](mailto:snickny@aol.com) Tel: (718) 380-5684

## Pastor's Message

By Father David Fox

Dear Friends,  
I would like to write especially this month to the parents of our Sunday School children. I am so thankful to see the children, the teenagers and the college young adults when they come to Church. I love to hear about their activities, to see how they grow up in front of us, to see what interests them in the posters in their rooms I see during the home blessings. Another priest observed to me once, "when a child is born I saw an Icon of the Nativity placed over his crib. Over the years I saw animal posters, then sports pictures, cars, and then posters of beautiful girls, but through all those years the Icon of the Nativity remained."

For those of you who have made a decision to bring your child to Church, what a gift! You have given an "Icon", a way of life, a hope, a path to freedom, truth, self-control, the knowledge of right and wrong, faith, love. As Lou Foundos said so well at last week's Annual Meeting, "In America, you can have everything, and have nothing." To bring your child to Church is a choice to give your child

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something: The Lord said, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world but lose his own soul?" It takes work to get the kids to Church. Personally, I favor quality over quantity: talk about what you experienced at Church together. Don't be afraid of children's questions. Children see right through us: if Church is not important to us, if we have no real desire to learn about God, to grow in faith and love, then no matter how many times they are brought, the children will pick this up. On the Church's side, we are investing a lot of time, effort and resources to give our children the best Sunday School, we have good teachers and materials.

*Pastor's Message continued on page 4*

## President's Message

By Bill Peters

This past month, the Parish participated in two very successful events - The Archdiocese Centennial Celebration in Boston and our Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser. Thanks to Al Foundos and his Committee for all their hard work in running a great profitable Golf Outing!!!

Looking forward we still have much going on:

- Our Annual Pledge Program is beginning and requires everyone's support.
- The Building Expansion Project continues to progress as we await NYC Project approval of plans.
- Fundraising for the Building Project must continue since donations are still needed to pay

for the full costs of the Building Expansion.

- Adult Education on Wednesday evenings discussing the comparison of Orthodoxy with other religions such as Islam and Roman Catholicism.
- Daughters' of St. Nicholas sponsored Fundraising Luncheon with Baked Sale on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> after Liturgy.
- St. Nicholas Day Celebration including Bishop Nikon's visit and a Luncheon is being planned for Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Your active involvement in Church activities is critical for ongoing success.

Come to Church often and make a commitment to bring your children to Sunday School. It is important to give our children the opportunity to get a meaningful religious education.

## Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

The Daughters' held a short but very productive meeting on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. A discussion was held and plans were made for a fund raiser to be held on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> following services in our Fellowship Hall. The Daughters' will prepare a light lunch and home baked goods for sale. Please plan to support this delicious, fellowship fund raiser. Since we did not hold our annual flea market this year, other fund raisers will be planned as well.

Our next Daughters' meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> to finalize details for the November 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon. We welcome volunteers for help with the baking, serving, selling, etc. Please see Linda Foundos or Agathia Luka to help. See Tina Peters to offer your home baked goods.

Fr. David and our Sunday School are planning an excursion to visit Covenant House in New Jersey on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. It will definitely be a worthwhile experience. Any of the Daughters interested in participating, please see Linda Foundos so that we can arrange a car pool.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>  
COME TO WORSHIP  
STAY FOR LUNCH**

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

**Bishop Nikon  
to Participate  
in**

**Sunday Liturgy & Luncheon**

**COME ONE, COME ALL**

**Buy Your Tickets to the Luncheon at  
Church during November**

**No Tickets will be sold at the Luncheon**

**More details will be  
available soon**

## KENDI SHQIP (The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Tetor, 2008

Këtë muaj po japim dicka për qetësinë shpirtërore dhe një pjesë nga vjersha "Varfërija" e Naim Frashërit ;

Përkufizimi i fjalës "paqe" në fjalorin e Uebsterit është "një gjendje qetësie dhe pa konflikt". Në traditën e Cifutëve, kjo fjalë përdorej kur përshëndeteshe me dikë, duke na dhënë mesazhin se njerzit, takimet i donin sa më paqësore. Nuk është ky një mendim i bukur! Njerzit e të gjitha racave e besimeve duan të jetojnë në gjëndje paqe. Familjet duan paqe; Njerzit duan paqe; Kombet kërkojnë paqe. Në fakt gjithë njerëzimi e do paqen. Por paqa është një ideal i pakapshëm. Qekur Keini vrau vëllanë Abelin, është e vështirë të mendosh se mund të jetohej në paqe. Sot shumica e martesave nuk janë të qeta. Marëdhënjet dhe shoqëritë janë shumë delicate. Ne sot shkojmë në lufte me preteksin për të vendosur paqe...

Ndoshta nuk ekziston paqe e mjaftueshme në botë sot, sepse ne e kërkojmë atë në vende të gabuara. Liania e madhe në fillim të Liturgjisë Së Shenjtë na tregon se ku t'a kërkojmë paqen: "Paqa vjen nga LART, nga PARAJSA- dhe jo nga burime tokësore." Në kohën e turbullirave të mëdha në tokë, Krishti i la Aposujt e Tij me këtë mesazh " Paqen Time po ua lë juve" Paqa e vërtetë sillet tek ne nga "Princi i Paqes" i cili shpëton njerzit dhe i lidh ata me Zotin. Ai na sjell ne një paqe të brëndshme të vërtetë, e cila arrin thellësitë e zemrës humane dhe e pastron atë nga e keqa dhe nga pasionet. Më thjesht, duke njohur Zotin, ne do të kemi qetësi shpirtërore në jetën tonë.

"Varfëria"

Naim Frashëri

...Epni, t'u falë Zoti  
Juve gjithë të mirat,  
E të mos muntnjë moti  
T'ju sjellë të pahirat.

Ep, t'apë Perëndija  
Të gjitha mirësitë,  
Të të kenë fëmija  
Shëndet e jet' e ditë.

Mba unaza ne dorë  
Pa një farë nevoje!  
Zonjë! Shumë të gjorë  
Vdesën për bukë goje!

Zot i madh, i vërtetë!  
E gjithë ju të Mirët!  
Mos e lini për jetë  
Njerinë n'errësirë.

## Pledge Program for 2009

Our Annual Pledge Program which raises funds to support the operations of the Church is beginning this month. Letters will be mailed, see copy below, and information sessions will be held on Sundays in the Fellowship hall.

It is very important that each of us think seriously about the importance of the Church in our lives and then make the best possible Pledge that we can to financially support St. Nicholas Church.

Please fill out your Pledge Card and return it to the Church.

### PLEDGE LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

Last *Annual Pledge* for 2008 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The *Annual Pledge* program for 2009 is upon us. At the top right is The *Annual Pledge* amount you have committed to give for this current 2008 year. The *Annual Pledge* helps us to operate the Church on a daily basis. These funds make possible the providing to the community of Sunday religious services, Sunday School for the children, adult religious education classes, baptisms, weddings, funerals, social events and many other activities. Truly, these are very important to each of us and our families. Your support is needed and very much appreciated. We ask for you to once again support your membership obligation by making an *Annual Pledge* for 2009. "Our investment in the Church is an investment in our soul".

For the 2009 year, we have set a goal of **\$65,000**. The Church needs your help to achieve our goal. We are asking for an increase in your 2008 pledge of **10%**. For example, if you gave \$500 in 2008.... an additional \$50 is requested. This increase is less than \$1.00 a week. If you haven't pledged before, this is the time to come forward to pledge and help keep this St. Nicholas parish growing. The money from the pledges only covers ½ the costs of operating the Church. The special fund-raising events and the dollar interest received from investments provide the rest. Each year, we need to increase the *Annual Pledge* money so it covers more of the operational expense budget of \$140,000. Our long-term goal is to have the *Annual Pledge* cover all the expenses of the operating budget.

Often, we are asked "What is the right amount to pledge and give to support the Church?" This depends on your income and ability to give, but we all need to sacrifice. Here are some guidelines:

- an individual person should try to give \$7 to \$10 weekly (\$350 to \$500 in a year)
- a family should try to give \$15 or more weekly, based on ability and needs (\$750 or more in a year)

You will receive pledge envelopes which make it easier for payments in small amounts on a weekly basis throughout the 2009 year. When determining your Pledge amount, please consider the value of the Church in your family's life. Then, make your best possible Pledge by filling out and returning the enclosed Pledge Card.

If you have questions on deciding how much to pledge, please speak to Fr. David, Lou Foundos, Jim Liolin, Al Foundos, Roland Llupa or Petrika Troja. Also, to provide more information and help, we will have a special Pledge table set-up on Sundays during November and December in the Fellowship Hall after Liturgy. See The Orthodox Post and Sunday Bulletins for details.

Your Pledge Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_

Jim Liolin

\_\_\_\_\_

Al Foundos

\_\_\_\_\_

Fr. David Fox

**Pastor's Message, continued from page 1**

At the request of some of our parents, we set Sunday, October 26 after Liturgy for a parent and children luncheon with the teachers. We are inviting everyone to come, to just enjoy being together and to learn about what Christian education is. I will also be arranging with our parents a trip after Liturgy one Sunday in November for any who wishes to come see Covenant House, a Christian shelter for homeless youth. In December, we'll have St. Nicholas Sunday and also our Christmas Pageant, and the children will begin to do Christmas stockings. One of our children, George Beno, wants to collect school supplies to send overseas to help needy children in the Middle East. Finally, I will be talking with the teachers to have the older teenager classes altered a little to account for more listening of the youth's experiences and taking note to address their questions. Nathan will be all he can to get the children and youth involved as much as possible in the Liturgy, which after all, for anyone who desires, is a treasure of prayer. Come and See.

Your friend, Fr. David



## **Albanian Archdiocese Centennial Celebration**

On September 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, the Archdiocese celebrated its 100 Year Anniversary.

On Saturday night a Gala Dinner/Dance held at the Boston World Trade Center was attended by one-thousand people. Guests of honor included Actor, Jim Belushi and President of Albania Bamir Topi. Many of our Parishioners attended and had a good time. About 80 people came from New York including 20 people from VATRA.

On Sunday, a Hierarchical Liturgy was celebrated at St. George Cathedral in South Boston. Three Albanian bishops celebrated the Liturgy – our Bishop Nikon, Bishop Joan from Albania and Bishop Ilia from the Greek Archdiocese. In addition, all the priests from the Albanian parishes participated in the services.

The Centennial will be documented on a special DVD available soon.

It was a memorable Centennial Celebration enjoyed by all!!!!



## FEAST DAYS

### Venerable Parasceva (Petka) of Serbia Commemorated on October 14th



Saint Paraskeva the New was born into a pious family, living during the eleventh century in the village of Epivato, between Silistra and Constantinople. One day, while attending the divine services, the words of the Lord pierced her heart like an arrow, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself". From that time she began to distribute her clothing to the needy, for which reason she endured much grief from her family.

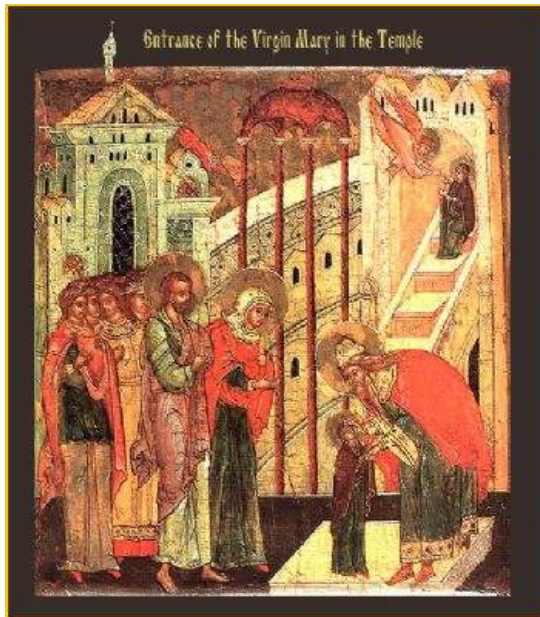
Upon the death of her parents, the saint was tonsured into monasticism at the age of fifteen. She withdrew to the Jordanian desert where she lived the ascetic life until she reached the age of twenty-five. An angel of the Lord ordered her to return to her homeland, so she stayed at Epivato for two years.

St Paraskeva departed to the Lord at the age of twenty-seven, and was buried near the sea. Because of the many miracles which took place at her grave, her relics were uncovered and found to be incorrupt. They were placed in the church of the Holy Apostles at Epivato, where they remained for about 175 years.

St Paraskeva's relics were moved to Bulgaria in 1223 and placed in the cathedral. Patriarch Euthymius wrote her Life and established the day of her commemoration as October 14. The Turks occupied Bulgaria in 1391, and her relics were given to Mircea the Elder, Prince of the Romanian Land. In 1394 the relics were given to Princess Angelina of Serbia (July 30), who brought them to Belgrade. For 120 years St Paraskeva's relics rested in Constantinople in the patriarchal cathedral.

On June 13, 1641, her incorrupt relics were transferred to the monastery of the Three Hierarchs at Jassy in Rumania, where many healings took place. On December 26, 1888, after being rescued from a fire, St Paraskeva's relics were moved again. This time they were placed in the new cathedral at Jassy, where they remain until the present day.

### The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple Commemorated on November 21



According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Sts Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God. When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow.

They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple. There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence. But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

## Major Church Activities and Events

Parish Council Meetings, 7 p.m.

Wed, Oct 15

Mon, Nov 03

Tues, Dec 02

Sunday School – Regular Classes

Sun, Oct 26

Sun, Nov 23

Sun, Nov 09

Sun, Dec 07

One Room School House with The Reader Nathan

Albanian Class for Children After Divine Liturgy

Sun, Oct 19

Sun, Nov 16

Sun, Nov 02

Sun, Nov 30

Sun, Oct 26: Pizza Party for Sunday School Children,  
Parents and Teachers after Divine Liturgy

Sun, Nov 09: Parish Lunch/Bake Sale by Daughters'  
After Liturgy in Fellowship Hall

Sun, Nov 16: All Parish trip to Covenant Houser in  
Newark, New Jersey after Divine Liturgy

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

Adult Study in October:

Tues, Oct 14: Islam and Orthodoxy

Wed, Oct 22: Islam and Orthodoxy

Wed, Oct 29: Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy

## Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kishe

Oct 19: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

Oct 26: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka

Nov 02: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos

Nov 09: Jorgji Coka / Ken Gjika

Nov 16: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo

Nov 23: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltidori

Dec 02: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile

Dec 09: Andrea Kutali / John Jance

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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181-14 Midland Parkway  
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



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