

THE ORTHODOX POST

September 2008
Volume IV, Issue 8



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,
September 1st marks the beginning of the new church year, which coincides with our getting back into a fall routine. Here is a great prayer to make part of the beginning of the day:

A Prayer to Begin the Day

From the Elders of Optina Monastery

O Lord grant that I may meet all that this coming day brings to me with spiritual tranquility.

Grant that I may fully surrender myself to Thy Holy Will.

At every hour of this day, direct and support me in all things.

Whatsoever news may reach me in the course of the day, teach me to accept it with a calm soul and the firm conviction that all is subject to Thy Holy Will.

Direct my thoughts and feelings in all my words and actions.

In all unexpected occurrences, do not let me forget that all is sent down from Thee.

Grant that I may deal straightforwardly and wisely with

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|-------|
| Pastor's Message; President's Message | 1 |
| Daughters of St. Nicholas & Kendi Shqip | 2 |
| 11th Annual Golf Outing | 3 |
| Community News | 5 & 6 |
| The Month's Major Feast Days | 7 |
| Major Events & Ushers' Sunday Schedule | 8 |

every member of my family, those with whom I work, and those whom you have blessed me to serve.

Let me neither embarrass nor sadden anyone.

O Lord, grant me the strength to endure the fatigue of the coming day and all the events that take place during it.

Direct my will and teach me to pray, pray Thou Thyself in me.

Teach me to believe, to hope, to be patient, to forgive, and to love.

Amen.

President's Message

By Bill Peters

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer!!!

As the new church year begins, we note that this September is an especially busy month, from the viewpoint of both the Parish and the Archdiocese. For the Parish, Sunday School registration on September 7 will be followed the next week with the beginning of classes. Second, we will have our Semi-annual General Meeting on September 21st where we will discuss the business of the Parish. Third, we'll have our Annual Golf Outing on September 29th which is a major fundraiser. Fourth, we will continue to make progress with our Building Expansion Project with actual construction activity.

For the Archdiocese, we will be celebrating its 100 Year Anniversary by participating in the Centennial Gala Dinner/Dance in Boston on Saturday, September 27th and the subsequent Sunday Hierarchal Liturgy with Bishop Nikon, Bishop Joan from Albania and Bishop Ilia from the Greek Archdiocese. St. Nicholas Church will have about 60 people attending these festivities in Boston.

To make the church year successful, it is very important to have you, the Parishioners and the extended community, actively participate and support all these activities.

Your involvement is needed and always welcomed!!!!

Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer with many great stories to tell. As always, when you take everyone into consideration, so much has been going on in everyone's lives.....all the travel, new home, surgery, dealing with illness, baptism, out of town guests, etc. We do wish everyone all the best.

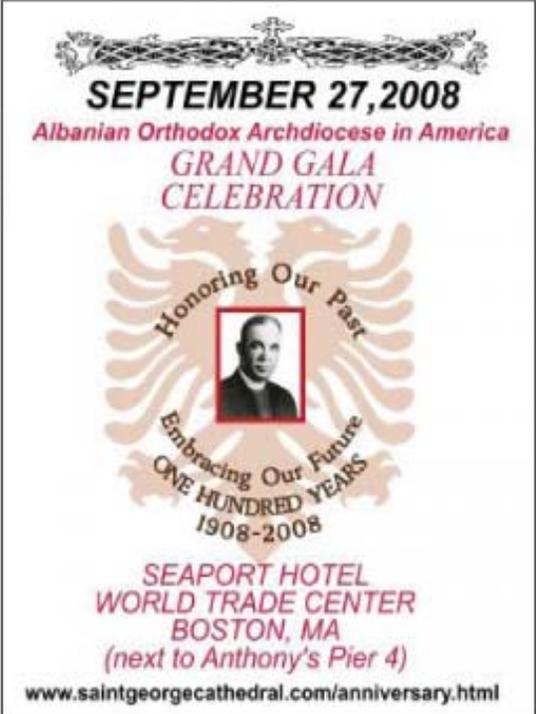
As the cooler weather approaches, people seem to get into a different frame of mind. It's back to business, schedules, even the menu at home changes with more stews and soups. We will be having a Daughters' meeting in September to plan for some activities. With our construction project looming over us, it seems we will most likely postpone our annual flea market. It has not yet been determined whether we might hold it in the spring? Or just wait till next fall? But, as always, please try to save some "special" items you may have so that you might donate them when the time comes. It would be greatly appreciated. We will keep you posted regarding the scheduling of the flea market.

Ladies, we need some new energy and ideas. Please come and get involved. Make this church, YOUR church.

**ALBANIAN ARCHDIOCESE
CENTENNIAL**

Reserve your Tickets NOW!!!

See Bill Peters - Tix \$125



SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America

**GRAND GALA
CELEBRATION**

Honoring Our Past
Embracing Our Future
**ONE HUNDRED YEARS
1908-2008**

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

www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Shtator, 2008

Vera mbaroi dhe përseri po fillojmë një vit të ri shkollor për fëmijet. Lexoni me fëmijet në shqip që mos e harrojnë gjuhën shqipe. Sillini ata në Kishë që të dëgjojnë fjalën e Zotit.

Këtë muaj po japim dicka për Nolin dhe vjershën e tij "Hymni I Flamurit".

Një sërë aktiviteteve po zhvillohen këtë vit me rastin e 100 vjetorit të Meshës së parë në gjuhën shqipe, më 22 Mars 1908. Në 9 Mars të këtij viti filluan festimet për këtë përvjetor në Boston me një meshë mbresë-lënese dhe më 27 Shtator 2008, do të mbahet një darkë madhore përsëri në Boston, Mass.

Në vitet 1906-1907, Shqiptarët Orthodox në Amerikë po e humbisnin durimin me kontrollin e kishës greke mbi ta. Tensioni arriti kulmin kur në vitin 1907, një prift orthodox grek refuzoi të kryejë shërbesën e fundit në varrimin e një shqiptari nga Huston, Mass. me arsyen që i vdekuri nuk dinte greqisht, gjuhë në të cilën shërbesa do të kryhej. Atëhere, Fan Nolit i erdhi koha për të treguar shqiptarizmin dhe aftësinë e tij drejtuese. Organizoi një mbledhje të Shqiptarëve Orthodox nga e gjithë zona e New England në të cilën delegatët vendosën të krijonin një kishë autoqefale, domethënë, kishë autonome Orthodoxe Shqiptare me Nolin në krye si klerikun e parë. Në 9 Shkurt 1908, në moshën 26 vjecare, Noli u emërua "dhjak" në Brooklyn dhe në 8 Mars 1908, Platon, Arcbishopi orthodox Rus i New York-ut, e emëroi atë si Prift Orthodox. Dy javë më vonë, në 22 Mars 1908, Noli i ri me krenari e festoi këtë moment duke kryer për herë të parë meshën në gjuhën shqipe, në Sallën e Kalorësve të Nderit në Boston. Ky veprim përfaqson përpjekjen e parë drejt organizimit dhe njohjes zyrtare të një Kisha Orthodoxe Autoqefale Shqiptare.

HYMNI I FLAMURIT

O Flamur gjak, o flamur shkabë,
O vënd e vatr' o nën' e babë,
Lagur me lot, djegur me flagë,
Flamur i kuq, flamur i zi.

Me Skënderben' u lavdërove
Dhe në furtun' i funtmi u shove,
Me Malon prapë lart vrapove,
Yll i pavdekur për Liri.

Fortesë shkëmbi tmerr tirani,
S'të trëmp Romani, as Venecjani,
As Sërp Dushani, as Turk Sulltani,
Flamur i math për Vegjëli.

Sa shpesh pastaj përdhe u shtrive
Me zjarr e zi u ndeze, u nxive,
Po çdo mizor me shpat' e grive,
O fushë-kuq, o shkabë-zi.

Flamur që lint Shën Kostandinin,
Pajton Islamn' e Krishtërimin,
Çpall midis feve vllazërimin,
Flamur bujar për Njerëzi.

Përjetë prie Shqipërinë,
Përlintj'a shpirtin dhe fuqinë,
Diell për vllanë, yrnec për fqinë
Për botën ëndr' e qjell I ri.

COME AND PLAY



11th ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

Remember last year's outing? It was great! For those of you who participated last year and had a great time, and also those of you who did not and missed a great outing, we would be pleased to have you join us on Monday, September 29, 2008 when we will be holding our *11th Annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing* at the *Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course*. This is an exceptional golf course with challenging holes and beautiful views.

We start with registration in the morning and Tee-off at noon striking that little magic white ball hoping it goes where we wish, but frequently in another direction. As we move along in good company we have hamburgers at the pit stop and continue on wishing to hit the Hole-in-One and win a BMW. After a beautiful round of golf, then we proceed at the 19th Hole at the Woodlands Restaurant in the Clubhouse; followed by a great dinner, prizes/awards and the grand raffle. The results of all this is a great day and evening and a great fundraiser for our Church.

We are reaching out for your participation and/or signing up your friends and relatives to join us at this year's event and ask for a wonderful and fun-filled day. The cost to golf, lunch and dinner is *\$650.00 for a foursome* or *\$175.00* per person. We also want to encourage you to solicit sponsors for *hole sponsorships for \$250.00*, and/or *prize/merchandise sponsorships for \$100-\$300* for the raffle, which helps raise funds for our church programs.

We do hope that you will participate and invite your friends to join us. Registration/sponsorship forms are available in the office or from any committee member. Please make an effort to help and respond early so we can plan to accommodate everyone.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any one of the members listed, or call 516-520-5227 and ask for Donna or Brenda. Email doswald@cigaroasis.com for detailed directions.

The Golf Committee: Phil Foundos & Tomi Beno: Co-Chairmen
Mark Papalexis, Al Foundos, Mitch Thomas, Lou Foundos, Jim Liolin,
Jim Oswald and Christine Beno.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Registration and Orientation for Sunday School will take place after Liturgy on Sunday September 7th

Teachers will also be able to prepare their classrooms.

First day of class will be Sunday September 14th.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday September 21st
after Liturgy



Come to our meeting !!!

Important business of the St. Nicholas Parish will be discussed.

This includes our Building Expansion Project, Religious Education, Church Finances, Social Activities, and the Daughters of St. Nicholas.

AANO CONVENTION 2008

by Linda Foundos



The 62nd annual Albanian-American National Organization (AANO) Convention was held in Philadelphia August 1-3. Several things were special and different about this Convention. It was dedicated to the memory of Stephen Stefani who was a pillar of the Philly Chapter for decades. He cherished his Albanian heritage and his Church.

A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Albert Foundos!!! He so deserved this honor after his years of dedicated involvement and leadership. Al was especially happy when the dream he had suggested and kept alive for many years was achieved of hosting an AANO Convention in Tirana in 2006 for the first time. Al received a standing ovation as he approached and left the podium; a very fine human being.

The musical entertainment was provided by the Brothers from Korce, Endri and Stefi Prifti. It was their first time in America. Their wonderful talent was enjoyed by all. They even performed in Worcester, Chicago and New York City while they were in the U.S. Philadelphia has great history, architecture, sites and restaurants; it has much to offer. All in all, the convention was a great success.

It was decided at the Sunday meeting that the August 2009 Convention will be held in Worcester, Massachusetts.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Linda Foundos

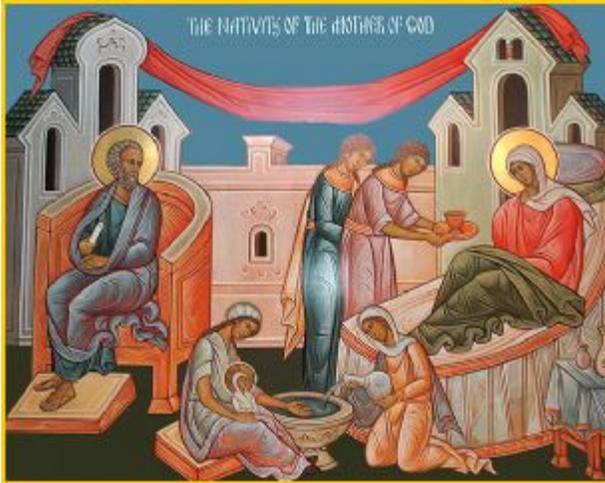
- Romana and Kristaq Petro enjoyed their getaway to the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania with its rustic, natural beauty. It was a nice change of pace, a getaway to new scenery.
- Oneida, Edi & Ediona Sera and Adelina & Roland Llupa traveled to the west coast - San Francisco - where Ediona participated in a fencing competition. They toured the San Francisco area and then drove down the coast stopping in the Napa wine country and the Carmel Valley. California has much to see, each different, each area special in its own way. They enjoyed it all.
- Christina Foundos and Angela Mile spent 2 weeks at an Orthodox camp, the Antiochian Village, in Pennsylvania for their 3rd summer. It is a wonderful program which includes tidying up the cabin, church services, breakfast, Sunday school class, museum trip, chapel tour, participating in a variety of sports and games, fun competitions between cabins such as craziest hairdo, free time, and a different program each evening such as a pool party, country & western nite, etc. Christina & Angela were of the very few from New York. The rest of the campers come from all across the United States. The girls have very much enjoyed making such good friendships and keeping in touch throughout the year. It's been a great experience.
- Agathia & Ilia Luka flew to San Diego to spend time on Coronado Island at the naval base with their son, Mario (Klaudio), before his U.S. Navy ship, the George Washington, leaves for its mission in Japan. They had a fabulous time, enjoyed it all. May God be with Mario and all those serving with him.
- Barbara, Mark, Laura & Greg Papalexis had a super time in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. It was great family fun and bonding.
- Get well wishes to Rosalie Zacharias who underwent surgery to "repair, rebuild" her ankle which she broke during a fall at home. She will spend some time in rehab to get back on her feet. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Rosalie. You are missed. Rosalie is currently at the Highfield Gardens Care, 199 Community Drive, Great Neck, NY 11021. Her phone number is 516-303-0384.
- We send a "shout out" to Helen Pillary who is now at the Chapin Home for the Aging, 165-01 Chapin Pkwy, Jamaica, NY 11432. Our Sunday singing is certainly not the same without you! We send our best wishes to you. Helen's phone number is 718-739-2523 extension #3112.
- Elizabeth Jones continues on the road to recovery, after undergoing recent surgery on her heart to relieve her hypertension. She is currently in Boston Children's Hospital, which is one of the best in the country. Fr. Arthur Liolin has visited Elizabeth in the Hospital, meeting all of the Jones and Jance families recently. He offered blessings and well wishes, and he lifted their spirits immensely. We all pray for her full and speedy recovery.
- Helen & Peter Panajoti's daughter, Kathy, has gone to the land down under. Kathy is in Townsville, Australia studying the Great Barrier Reef. She is working on her doctorate in marine science. What a beautiful and fascinating experience. All the best, Kathy!!
- Albana, Nasi & Thea Pavllo vacationed in the Dominican Republic. They enjoyed the fun, sun, relaxation and the beautiful, warm waters of the Caribbean.
- Congratulations to Jana, Phil, Matt, Christina & Andrew Foundos on their new home!! May God bless you all to make many beautiful, happy memories there. Moving a household is no easy task, but so rewarding when things are finally unpacked and put into place and you can enjoy it.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Continued from Page 5

- Georgianne & Richard Kasuli so graciously and generously hosted their 9th Annual Bocce Tournament at their home in Ridgefield, CT. The day is filled with laughter, fun, the excitement of the games, delicious foods and drink and lots of family reuniting and bonding. Surprisingly, the competition is tough; the caliber of bocce talent is very high!! The trophy winners this year were Christine and Tomi Beno!!! Well done.
- The Fox family, Fr. David, Keri, Hurley, Max, Paris & Nikko, enjoyed a great family vacation in South Dakota. It certainly is a different world out there with so many bison roaming the land, especially compared to New York City!!! A great experience and education for all as well as a great “what I did on my summer vacation” story! After South Dakota, they went to visit with family in Millville, New Jersey near Union Lake. And it seems we have our own Olympians.....all 4 Fox children participated in the summer Olympics there and won silver (2nd place) in the swimming competition!!! Bravo!!
- Best wishes to Laura Papalexis as she begins her nursing career in Critical Care at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Laura recently graduated from University of Connecticut. We’re all very proud of you, Laura.
- Alison Papalexis has spent the summer working as an Associate at the law firm of Hahn & Hesson. She will be working as a Teacher’s Assistant beginning this fall as she completes her final year at St. John’s Law School as well as do some work at the Brooklyn District Attorney’s office. Good luck, Alison!
- Myrtle Beach, South Carolina was the vacation spot for the Mile’s, Irma, Ardian, Iris & Angela and the Baltadori’s, Juliana, Stefan & Vasil. Boogie boarding on the big waves was the most fun. Apparently, Ardian would fit right in with the “surfer dudes”!!! It was a relaxing and fun trip for all.
- Ellen Gradt is very proud of her children and grandchildren. She just had 4 of her grandchildren graduate. Daughter Debbie’s son, Michael Rifelli, graduated from Roger Williams College in Rhode Island majoring in business. He will be working in his father’s steel business, United Iron in Mt. Vernon, NY. Son James’ son, Jason Gradt graduated from Brookfield, CT High School and will be attending University of Connecticut. Daughter Louise’s twins, Marie & Emily Costantini, graduated from Westport, CT High School and will be attending James Madison and University of San Diego respectively. Bravo to all. We wish you much future success as you go on.
- Zana & Thomaq Fundo vacationed in Florida. They had a great time in South Beach, Miami, Marco Island and Naples, Florida. They had a great time with old friends, made many new ones, enjoyed the sights, and the beach.....loved it all!!
- Tina and Bill Peters spent many weeks this summer with their grand-daughters from Switzerland, Skyler and Sophia. They vacationed at Virginia Beach and then later in Switzerland. Nana and Grandpa Peters had a wonderful time!!
- **Welcome back to all our travelers!** It’s great fun to have a change of scene, enjoy new places, and visit with family out of town. There are still some that have not yet returned.....

Please contact Linda Foundos with any news you'd like to share.



THIS MONTH'S MAJOR FEAST DAYS

**The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary
Commemorated on September 8**

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind. The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. The Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. The Theotokos revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.



**The Universal Exaltation (Elevation) of the Life-Creating Cross
Commemorated on September 14th**

The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

The Emperor Constantine the Great issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer." Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body. In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life.

Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found. Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326. The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, St Andrew of Crete says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".

Major Church Activities and Events

Sunday School Begins

Sun, Sept 7: Registration
Sun, Sept 14: Classes Begin

Sun, Sept 07: Albanian Archdiocese Video
Shown during Coffee Hour

Mon, Sept 08: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Sun, Sept 14: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m., Exaltation of
the Cross

Sun, Sept 21: Parish General Meeting after Liturgy

Archdiocese Centennial Celebration – Boston, MA

Sat, Sept 27: Gala - Dinner & Dance
Sun, Sept 28: Hierarchal Liturgy–St. George Cathedral

Mon, Sept 29: Golf Outing at 11 am
Oyster Bay Golf Course

Adult Study will begin in October

**NOTE: TIME CHANGE from SUMMER SUNDAY LITURGY
– BEGINNING SEPT 7, LITURGY STARTS at 10:00 AM**

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services

Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kishe

| | | |
|------|-----|--------------------------------|
| Aug | 31: | Damian Peters / Steven Foundos |
| Sept | 07: | Bill Peters / Ilija Luka |
| Sept | 14: | Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo |
| Sept | 21: | Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile |
| Sept | 28: | Illir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori |
| Oct | 05: | Andrea Kutali / John Jance |

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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