

# THE ORTHODOX POST

May 2010

Volume VI, Issue 5



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) Deacon Nathan Preston - Tel: (208) 818-3372

## Deacon's Message

by Deacon Nathan Preston

Krishti Ungjall!

Hello everyone,

It is a curious honor to be filling this space in our monthly post. An honor, of course, to write to you in this forum that (I hope) intrudes into your life beyond Sundays. A curiosity because, as with many of those ways in which I am now privileged to serve our community, my presence here cannot but help to indicate a lack elsewhere. We are without a local pastor, and this is a struggle. I trust you will forgive my bluntness. I believe it is important to note and acknowledge this, though, that we may find even these present difficulties productive. Having come lately through Holy Week and with Ascension a score of days away, the theme of absence should not be unfamiliar to us. The scattered apostles, Peter's denial, and Thomas' doubt anticipate a Church that,

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ultimately, even after the Resurrection had to do without and yet survived—and yet thrived. The Acts of God are not always what we hope to endure with their uncertainty and with their search for cause or blame or good explanation, but they are the Acts of God because we are still His Church: His Church, His responsibility, and, not to be flippant, His problem. And we need remember this now that though what we hear may not be good news there is yet still  
**Monthly Message is continued on Page 4**

## President's Message

by Bill Peters

CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

Spring is finally here and we look forward to a joyous season, both in our personal life and in our life at St. Nicholas Church!!!

At St. Nicholas, we have the challenge of finding a permanent priest who will fit the needs of our parish. Bishop Nikon and the Parish Council are working together to identify candidates. In the meantime, we will be having temporary priests serve the pastoral needs of our parishioners. We are blessed to have Deacon Nathan as part of our parish to assume additional clergy responsibilities and to assist the visiting priests. Be assured, all our parishioner needs will be cared for. If you have any needs for special services, contact Deacon Nathan (208 818-3372) or myself (516 248-8462).

As you can see, Building Expansion Project construction work is nearing completion. It is truly a wonderful expansion of the church. It is important that we all provide our financial support so bills and loans can be paid. To help, extra fundraising events will be held in the future – May 2<sup>nd</sup> a Parish Lunch and on June 20<sup>th</sup> our Annual Picnic.

For Mothers' Day don't forget our special complimentary breakfast to honor the ladies. **HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY!!!!**

### PARISH LUNCH

Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> after Liturgy  
Sponsored by The Daughters



*Come to Worship*

*Stay for Lunch*

Delicious lunch includes a piece of lakror, meatballs,  
Greek salad, dessert & coffee or soda for  
only \$10 per person.

There is no charge for children 10 years old and under  
who will receive a small piece of lakror,  
a meatball, a cookie and a drink.  
Home-baked goodies will also be sold!!!!

## DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

### "Come to Worship, Stay for Lunch."

On Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Daughters will host a fundraiser luncheon following services in our newly expanded Fellowship Hall. The last time we offered this, it was very well received. We hope you will plan to support our event.

This summer we will be doing some preliminary work for our Flea Market planned for early October. We will need some volunteers. Please see me to offer your time for this summer and coordinate our efforts.

Wisdom: "What God Won't Ask You When You Get to Heaven"

- God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- God won't ask you how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived. He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
- God won't ask about the color of your skin. He'll ask about the content of your character.
- God won't ask what kind of car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- God won't ask you about the clothes you had in your closet. He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
- God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
- God won't ask the square footage of your house. He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
- God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation. He'll lovingly take you into heaven.

### THINK WITH YOUR HEART and PLEDGE!!!



*We are blessed by God with material possessions, health, abilities, and life. Also, with intangible blessings – forgiveness, strength, courage, and ultimately eternal life. Therefore it is certainly a given that we should give back to God in return by supporting our St. Nicholas Church.*

*Pledging is Stewardship -- PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE and Submit your Card-- TODAY*

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Maj, 2010

Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë nga "Ungjilli sipas Lukës" me titull "Ringjallja: Ndarja e Fundit". Megjithëse i festuam Pashkët, ringjallja e Krishtit gjithmonë është aktuale... dhe një lutje nga "Anafora" e librit "Adhurimi" i Thomas Hopko.

...Në këto fjalë e sipër, papritur, vetë Jezusi qëndroi mes tyre, dhe tha: "Ju përshëndes!" Ata, të habitur dhe me plot frikë, mendonin se po shihnin një fantazmë. Por ai u tha: "Përse çuditëni? Pse lindin këto dyshime në mëndjen tuaj? Shikoni duart dhe këmbët e mija: jam unë! Më prekni dhe binduni! Një fantazmë nuk është prej mishit dhe eshtrave çfarë po shihni se kam unë." Ndërsa u thoshte këto, u tregoi këmbët dhe duart. Ata ende s'mund të besonin nga gëzimi dhe çudia, prandaj u tha: "A keni këtu gjë për të ngrënë?" Ata i sollën një kurm peshku të pjekur. Jezusi e mori dhe e hëngri para syve të tyre. Pastaj u tha: "Kur isha me ju, ju thashë: "Gjithshka që u shkrua për mua në ligjin e Moshut, në Profetët dhe në Psalmët duhet të plotësohet." Dhe ai i ndihmoi ta kuptonin siç duhet shkrimin e Shenjtë. "Këtu është shkruar," u shpjegoi, "Mesia duhet të vuajë dhe të vdesë, dhe të ringjallet nga të vdekurit ditën e tretë. Njerëzve të të gjithë popujve duhet t'u shpallet se atyre u ofrohet kthimi nga mëkatet te Zoti për ndjesën e mëkateve, me kusht që të besojnë në Mesinë. Dhe kjo duhet të fillojë në Jeruzalem." Ju jeni dëshmitarë të të gjitha këtyre dhe ju do të përgjigjeni për këtë. Por unë do t'jua dërgoj Shpirtin që Ati im ju ka premtuar. Rrini këtu në qytet, deri sa të forcoheni me fuqinë nga Perëndia."

Pastaj i mori me vete gjer në skaj të Bet-Anjës. Atje i ngriti duart për t'i bekuar. Dhe ndërsa po i bekonte ata, u nda nga ata dhe u ngrit lart në qiell. Por ata ranë përmbys para tij, dhe e adhuruan. Pastaj u kthyen të gëzuar në Jeruzalem, dhe vazhdimisht ishin në Tempull duke lavdëruar Perëndinë.

... NJE LUTJE NGA "ANAFORA"...

Edhe ne, Zot njeridashës, bashkë me këto fuqi të lumura thërresim e themi: "I shenjtë dhe tërëshenjtë Je, Ti dhe Biri i

**Kendi Shqip is continued on Page 4**

## ***Parish Annual General Meeting – April 18, 2010***

On Sunday, after the Liturgy, Parishioners gathered in the Fellowship Hall to participate in the General Meeting that covered the business of the Parish. The important items that were discussed included Sunday School, activities of the Daughters of St. Nicholas, our Building Expansion Project, Fundraising activities, our Pledge Program and the financial results for 2009. In addition, Parishioners elected 3 members to the Parish Council each for a 3 year term. Congratulations to Beti Beno Tsamblakos, Jim Liolin and Tomi Beno on their election!

The discussions emphasized the challenges facing the Parish. Of course, our highest priority is getting a priest to be our Pastor, now that Fr. Andrew has left. Bishop Nikon and members of the Parish Council are searching for candidates. During this period, we are blessed to have Deacon Nathan serving us. He will be assisting the interim priests who will temporarily celebrate the Liturgy on Sundays and perform other sacramental services required by parishioners such as baptisms, weddings, memorials, etc. Also, on some Sundays, Deacon Nathan will be celebrating a shortened version of the Liturgy in which the gifts for communion are prepared by a priest at a previous Liturgy.

It is important that during this period, all Parishioners continue being very active – attend Liturgy regularly, bring children to Sunday School and actively support all church events.

The Pastor's Report written by Fr. Andrew and read at the meeting by Deacon Nathan very effectively describes the status of church activities and church needs. It is provided below for your information:

### ***Pastor's Report by Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Jarmus, Out-going Pastor***

Dear Father Deacon, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**KRISHTI UNQJAL!**

Over the course of the year that I spent serving as pastor of St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, I focused on the following areas. I offer them with notes and comments:

#### **1. Increased visits of members, especially shut-ins**

It is very important for the parish to have a strong and active visitation program. Although there are only a small number of shut-ins at this time, these individuals need regular contact with the parish community. Visits are also important for members and potential members. This is an area that will require further attention and development.

#### **2. Development of Church School and Youth Group programming**

This year we had six children enrolled in Church School and twelve in the Youth Group. We faced the usual challenges with Church School -- primarily irregular attendance -- and the added challenge of very limited space because of the construction. I am grateful to the teachers that worked with the kids and to the parents who brought their children to church. I believe that children are naturally open to God, His angels, His saints and His Church. However, it is up to the adults in their life to allow them to be exposed to the great blessings that the Lord offers through the Church. I would encourage all parents, grandparents and godparents to work hard to make sure the beloved are given the opportunity to be exposed to the love of God and His Church. Working with the youth of St. Nicholas Church was an absolute blessing. Their positive energy, insight and natural camaraderie made the youth program a very fulfilling experience for all. The youth of the parish should be encouraged to take more and more part in the life of the congregation. They are the up-and-coming leaders of the church. Their gifts will be, and already are, a great blessing indeed.

#### **3. Better use of the Internet**

We began this effort with photos of the building project and a pastor's blog. The Youth Group also created a Facebook page. These were good starts and more work needs to be done in the area of the internet, as more and more people report that they find information about parishes on-line (especially those looking for a parish to call home).

#### **4. New Service Book**

The new service book was prepared at the end of 2009 early into this year. Rather than just having hard copies to copy, cut and paste from, the whole book is available in electronic format on the church computer making reprinting and/or modifying much easier and more cost effective.

#### **5. Major events**

Among the major events of this year were the Ground Breaking ceremony for the building expansion and the visit of Bishop Nikon for the ordination of Deacon Nathan. Both of these events were very successful and this is thanks to the dedication of the parish members who worked so hard to make them a success. The other major event of the past year was the actual building project itself. Although it was hard at times working around the various phases of the building process, I think that people were very patient and willing to adjust activities when necessary. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the work of Andrea and Adriana Topore throughout the project, in making sure that the church and basement were usable for Sunday services and Coffee Hour. Many long hours were spent cleaning up dust and debris for Sundays that had accumulated over a week's worth of tearing things down and putting things up. May God bless the Topore family for all of their work. Although my family and I look forward to our new life and work in Indiana, it was with great sadness that we left the New York area. Know that you will all be missed and you are in our prayers. Always remember that God has called you all together into one community. Whether you are the children of the parish founders, or converts to Orthodoxy, or Albanians who came to the U.S. after the fall of Communism, you are all one in our Lord Jesus Christ. Treasure this unity, build one-another up, and always be open to what God is teaching the parish and where He is leading you. In this way, you will never go wrong.

In our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, +Fr. Andrew

## COMMUNITY NEWS

By Linda Foundos

- The Troja Family is rocking the cradle now, a pink one!! Congratulations to Alessandra & Erald Troja on the birth of Sophia Santos Troja on April 12<sup>th</sup> weighing in at 6 pounds 6 ounces. The proud grandparents, Eli & Petrika Troja, and Teta Hesonia are thrilled with the new bundle of joy. May God bless Sophia and all her family.
- A blue cradle is rocking at the Peters home. Congratulations to Regina & Bill Peters on the birth of Daniel Christopher on March 31<sup>st</sup> weighing in at 8 pounds. Grandparents Tina & Bill Peters and big brother Will couldn't be happier. We wish Daniel a very long, healthy and happy life. All the best to the Peters Family.
- May God bless Kostandino Spiro baptized on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes to his parents, Frederik & Enkeleida Spiro and the proud Godparents, Themistokli & Antoneta Mertiri. We welcome Kostandino into the faith.
- It was stereophonic sound on April 10<sup>th</sup> as the Jones twins were baptized! Lia Preftes & Geldon Vllahu served as the Godparents for Sofia. Theresa Centopante & Stephen Nowmos served as the Godparents for Elizabeth. Parents Diane & Stephen Jones, big sister Renee, Grandpa Larry Jance and Uncle John Jance were all poised to spring into action at a moment's notice. What a joyous day for the entire family and friends.
- We extend heartfelt get well wishes to Peter Panajoti recovering from recent surgery. We're thinking of you and hope it won't be long before you are up and around. Peter and Helen, you are missed.
- Bravo to Ediona Sera who won first place in a fencing qualifying tournament. Because of this success, Ediona will now compete on the national level in Division 1. That is quite an achievement! She is very dedicated, talented, determined, etc. (all those good things!) And, her parents, Oneida & Edi Sera, sister Christianna and Grandma have all been very supportive and are so very proud of her.

### For Community News Reporting of Information

Please contact Linda Foundos at (516) 671-8071 or email her at [ggsutter@aol.com](mailto:ggsutter@aol.com)

### DEACON'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

the Good News. To labor in that light is ever our task. It was the women's role, it seems, to wash and prepare the body for burial in Christ's time. With duty the Myrrhbearers approached the tomb; with fearful joy they left. Duty and Joy are our churchly vocation. I have been humbled to observe with what faithfulness so many serve our parish. To attempt a list would insult those who my poor memory would forget. Thank you all for this. But please do not fulfill half your Christian job. Live in joy and in faith that, for a God who raises the dead, our problems are small indeed.

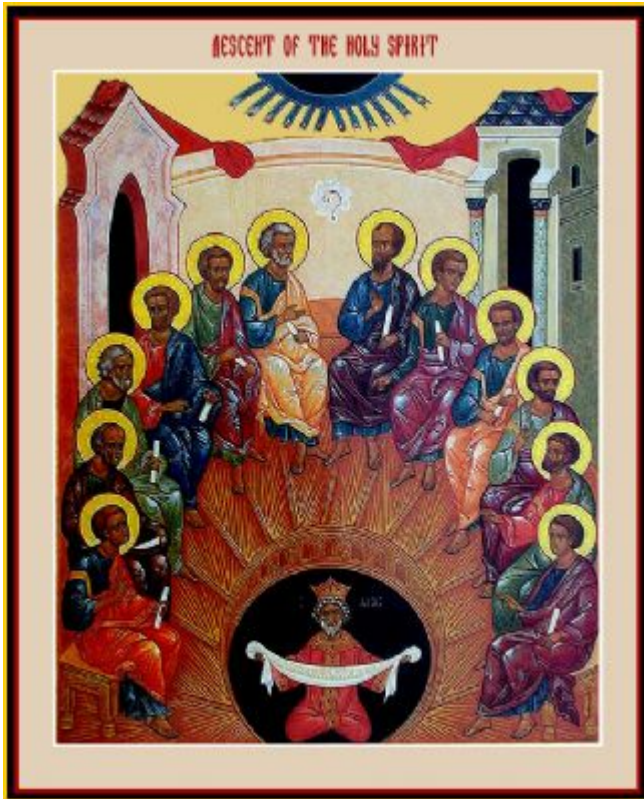
Yours,

Dn. Nathan

### KENDI SHQIP – Continued from Page 2

Vetëmlindur dhe Shpirti Yt i Shenjtë. I Shenjtë dhe i Tërëshenjtë Je dhe madhështore është lavdia Jote; Ti që e deshe botën Tënde, aq sa edhe Birin tënd të vetëmlindur edhe, që çdo njeri që beson tek Ai të mos humbasë, por të ketë jetë të amëshuar; i cili erdhi dhe plotësoi gjithë misionin hyjnor për ne, natën që dorëzohej, ose më mirë dorëzonte vehten e Tij, për jetën e botës, si mori bukën në duart e Tij të shenjta, të pacënuara dhe të papërlyera, si falenderoi dhe e bekoi, e shenjtëroi e theu dhe ua dha nxënësve dhe Apostujve të Tij të shenjtë duke u thënë: "Merrni hani, ky është trupi im, që thyhet për juve për ndjesën e mëkateve. Amin." Gjithashtu mori dhe potirin (kupon) duke thënë: "Pini prej këtij të gjithë, ky është gjaku im i Dhjatës së Re, që derdhet për juve dhe për shumë, për ndjesën e mëkateve." Duke kujtuar pra këtë porosi shpëtimtare dhe gjithë sa janë bërë për ne, Kryqin, Varrin, ngjalljen e triditshme, të ngjiturit në Qiejt, të ndenjurit në të djathtë, Ardhjen e dytë të lavdëruar, "Të tuat nga të tuat, ty të blatojmë, nga të gjitha dhe për të gjitha!"





## This Month's Feast Days

**HOLY PENTECOST** – Celebrated on May 23<sup>rd</sup>

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end – the achievement and fulfillment – of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

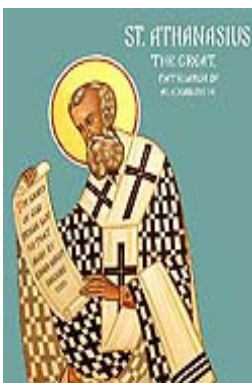
This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost" – and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches – for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit – "the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life – comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974) – edited

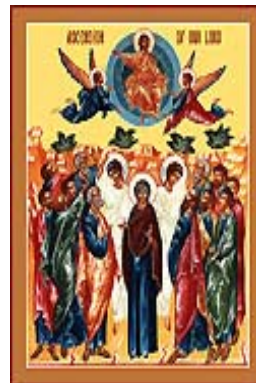
## MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN MAY



**St. Athanasius  
The Great**  
May 2



**Apostle and Evangelist  
John the theologian**  
May 8



**Feast of the Ascension  
of the Lord**  
May 13



**Sts. Constantine  
and Helen**  
May 21

### Major Church Activities and Events

- Sun, May 02: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
Parish Lunch sponsored by the Daughters
- Sun, May 09: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.;  
Mother's Day Breakfast
- Mon, May 10: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs, May 13: Ascension Feast Day Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, May 16: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, May 23: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
Pentecost Feast Day
- Sun, May 30: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Jun 06: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Jun 13: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Jun 20: Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
Annual Church Picnic at  
Manorhaven Park, Port Washington

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

- May 02: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- May 09: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- May 16: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
- May 23: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- May 30: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos
- Jun 06: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church  
181-14 Midland Parkway  
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



Customer Name  
Street Address  
City, ST ZIP Code