

THE ORTHODOX POST

February 2010

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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 Andrew Jarmus

Lent's Coming... Get Ready

Have you ever heard one of these conversations?

"So, what are you going to give up for Lent this year?"

"I don't know. When does it start?"

"Last Monday."

This year, Great Lent begins on Monday, February 15--quite early, really. As we know, this time of spiritual struggle involves intensified prayer, more liturgical services and a stricter rule of fasting than through the regular seasons of the year. All of this is intended to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ, which He willingly accepted to deliver us from death. Such significant moments in the life of the Church, and indeed in the life of the world, should not be approached casually.

President's Message

by Bill Peters

By now, many of you have heard that Fr. Andrew is leaving our St. Nicholas Parish. However, he will continue as our Pastor through Pascha (April 4th). He and his family will be leaving in early April to go to a parish in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We are sorry to see him go, but we wish him and his family well in their new parish home. Bishop Nikon and the Parish Council will be working on obtaining a priest for our Parish.

During Great Lent which begins on Monday, February 15th. Fr. Andrew will conduct Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings followed by Adult Study. Plan on being there!!!

The next few months will be very busy. In addition to Lent Holy Week and other Pascha season activities, we will be involved with the following:

1. *Pledge Program* – Each Parishioner's financial commitment for 2010 is needed so the Church can continue serving the community. If you haven't done so, Please turn-in your pledge card with your best possible pledge.

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It has been said more than once that to truly appreciate the joy of the Paschal services, one needs to also attend the services of Holy Week. We cannot truly appreciate the immensity of Jesus' victory in His Resurrection without also reflecting in the great lengths to which He went to realize this victory. The services of Holy Week, with their themes of death and new life, also remind us that as Christ's followers we too cannot get to the "empty tomb" without a stop at the "cross". As Jesus says, "If anyone desires to come after

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2. *Valentine's Day Dance* – On Saturday Night, February 13th, the Church will sponsor a Dance and Party in our new, expanded Fellowship Hall. It will be a fun event with a DJ and serve as a fundraiser for the Church.

3. *Building Expansion Project* – Much has been accomplished to date!!! Most of the project has been completed. However, we have several items still to be done which will extend the work out into early Spring. Your financial support is needed. If you have not made a commitment or donation, please do so, as soon as possible.

4. *Parish Annual General Meeting* – Sunday, April 18th, after Liturgy, Parishioners will gather to address the business of the Church. All activities, projects, plans and finances of the Church will be discussed. All should plan on attending!!!

**Your Active Participation in the Life of the Church
is Encouraged!!!**

St. Valentine's Day Dance

Sponsor: St. Nicholas Church

In Church New Fellowship Hall

*Saturday, February 13th
7 pm to 12 am*



Music by DJ

Plenty of Food
Buffet Dinner & Beverages

Price: \$50 per Person
(\$20 Children 12 or younger)

Tickets Limited, Reserve ASAP:

For Tickets Contact:

Agathia Luka (718) 456-6582

Tina Korra (201) 338-2002

Irma Mile (516) 470-0030



KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Shkurt, 2010

Këtë muaj po japim pjesën " Perëndia" nga volumi 1 "Doktrina" I Thomas Hopko.

...Perëndia - Një Perëndi, At' i Tërëfuqishëm

Besimi themelor i Kishës së Krishterë është besimi në një Perëndi të gjallë e të vërtetë.

" Dëgjo, o Izrael: Zoti, Perëndia jonë është një Perëndi; T'a doni Zotin, Perëndinë tuaj me gjithë zemrën, shpirtin, mendjen dhe fuqinë. Dhe këto fjalë që unë po u them sot do të vendosen në zemrat tuaja, dhe ju do t'ua mësoni ato fëmijëve tuaj, dhe ju do të flisni për to kur të uleni në shtëpitë tuaja, kur të ecni nëpër rrugë, kur të shkoni në shtrat dhe kur të ngriheni nga gjumi." (Ligji I Perëndisë)

Zoti dhe Perëndia e vetme e Izraelit zbuloi tek njeriu misterin e emrit të tij.

... Dhe Moisiu tha"...Nëse ata më pyesin cili është emri i tij, c'do t'u them?" Perëndia i tha "Unë Jam Ai Që Unë Jam. Thuaji popullit të Izraelit , 'Unë Jam' më ka dërguar tek Ju".

Emri i Perëndisë është Jahveh, që do të thotë në hebraisht " Unë Jam Ai që Jam", ose " Unë Jam cfarë Unë Jam", ose " Unë do jem cfarë unë do jem", ose thjesht " Unë Jam".

...Sigurisht, mund të thuhet që Perëndia ekziston përsosmërisht dhe absolutisht , si një jetë absolute dhe e përkryer, si mirësi, vërtetësi, dashuri, dituri, urtësi, pastërti, gëzim, thjeshtësi; si përkryerja e gjithshkaje që njeriu njih si të shenjtë, të vërtetë e të mirë. Kjo është Perëndia që është përcaktuar si " Perëndi që s'mund ta shprehim, që s'mund ta kuptojmë; që është e padukshme; që s'e arrin mendja jonë, që është gjithmonë e njejtë, që je e njejtë"..

Jezusi mund ta quante Perëndinë At, sepse Ai është Biri i vetëmlindur i Perëndisë. Të krishterët mund ta quajnë Perëndinë At', sepse nëpërmjet Krishtit ata morën Shpirtin e Shenjtë, duke u bërë vetë bij të adaptuar të Perëndisë... Kështu asnjë njeri nuk është bir natyror i Perëndisë dhe asnjë nuk mund ta quaj Perëndinë At'. Ne mund ta bëjmë këtë vetëm me anë të Krishtit dhe të dhuratës së Shpirtit të Shenjtë. Dhe kështu ne themi gjatë Meshës Hyjnore; "dhe bëna të denjë o Zot, që pa ndrojtje e pa dënim të guxojmë të të thërrasim At, Ty Perëndi Qiellore e të themi "Ati i ynë që je në qiell..."

Kendi Shqip is continued on Page 4

PASTOR'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”(Luke 9:23 – see also Mt. 16:24, Mk. 8:34) Renewal in life does not come without struggle.

When we read or hear about explorers going on expeditions to the remotes places of the world, they always speak about the months (if not years) of preparation before embarking on their journey. It is this time of making ready that helps ensure a successful endeavour. The Great Fast is a journey, a journey of the heart. It is one which offers great promise, but also is filled with many spiritual obstacles and pitfalls. It is a journey that must be entered into with some “lead time” to bolster ourselves for the effort. The Church, in Her wisdom and love for us, knows this and we find worked into the Church Calendar four Sundays (a full month!) that start calling our minds to the theme and efforts of the fast.

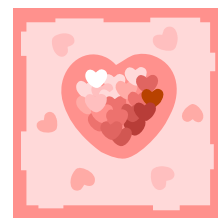
Most of us would agree that fasting is hard, whether it be abstaining from food, luxury items and activities, and certainly from the sinful inclinations of our fallen nature. These things are difficult to keep “in check” most of the time. The struggle is particularly difficult during Great Lent, which is longer and stricter than any of the other fasting seasons of the year (that is why it is called “Great”). Also, when people try that much harder to live a godly life, the demons are trying that much harder to take them off the path. We cannot expect to successfully complete the course of the Fast if we do not start preparing ourselves for it in advance. Let us use the time given by our Holy Mother, the Church, wisely, that our efforts may bear much fruit, being filled with the radiant light of Pascha at the end of the journey.

Lent's coming... get ready.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

- 1 1 John 2:18–3:10 Mark 11:1–11
- 2 Hebrews 7:7–17 Luke 2:22–40
- 3 1 John 3:21–4:6 Mark 14:43–15:1
- 4 1 John 4:20–5:21 Mark 15:1–15
- 5 Hebrews 13:17–21 Luke 6:17–23
- 6 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17 John 5:24–30
- 7 1 Corinthians 8:8–9:2 Matthew 25:31–36
- 8 3 John 1:1–15 Luke 19:29–40; 22:7–39
- 9 Jude 1:1–10 Luke 22:39–42,45–23:1
- 10 Joel 2:12–26 Joel 3:12–21
- 11 Jude 1:11–25 Luke 23:2–34,44–56
- 12 Zechariah 8:7–17 Zechariah 8:19–23
- 13 Romans 14:19–26 Matthew 6:1–13
- 14 Romans 13:11–14:4 Matthew 6:14–21
- 15 Isaiah 1:1–20 Genesis 1:1–13 Proverbs 1:1–20
- 16 Isaiah 1:19–2:4 Genesis 1:14–23 Proverbs 1:20–33
- 17 Isaiah 2:3–11 Genesis 1:24–2:3 Proverbs 2:1–22
- 18 Isaiah 2:11–21 Genesis 2:4–19 Proverbs 3:1–18
- 19 Isaiah 3:1–15 Genesis 2:20–3:20 Proverbs 3:19–34
- 20 2 Timothy 2:1–10 John 15:17–16:2
- 21 Hebrews 11:24–26,32–12:2 John 1:43–51
- 22 Isaiah 4:2–5:7 Genesis 3:21–4:7 Proverbs 3:34–4:22
- 23 Isaiah 5:7–16 Genesis 4:8–15 Proverbs 5:1–15
- 24 2 Corinthians 4:6–15 Matthew 11:2–15
- 25 Isaiah 6:1–2 Genesis 5:1–24 Proverbs 6:3–20
- 26 Isaiah 7:1–15 Genesis 5:32–6:8 Proverbs 6:20–7:1
- 27 Hebrews 13:17–21 John 10:9–16
- 28 Hebrews 1:10–2:3 Mark 2:1–12

THINK WITH YOUR HEART



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 -- TODAY**

Building Project Continues.....Completion is Near!!!

**Progress Continues!!! Most of the Interior work is completed.
Your help to pay for the Building Project is very much needed.
Please make your donation, soon!!!**

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Linda Foundos

- Bravo to Cleo Filis!! After an island-wide search, 150 student musicians were selected to perform at the Hofstra Middle School Honors Band Festival with the Hofstra Band & Wind Ensemble. Cleo, a 7th grader, was the only one selected from her school. She plays the bass clarinet. Her parents, Barbara & Nick, sister Nicolle, family & friends are all very proud of her accomplishments.
- Many blessings on Sofia Lilly Kerim who was recently baptized with Nina & Christopher Trainor serving as her Godparents. The proud parents, Diana & Kenneth, were delighted that Diana's mom could be here from Romania for this special event. Sofia is a very lucky little lady to be born to such a loving, close family. May God bless Sofia and both of their families.
- Congratulations to Alison Papalexis and Mark Ladd on their recent engagement. Alison & Mark met at St. John's Law School. They both passed the bar exam on their first attempt and are both working. What a great start! They are making plans for a fall wedding. Their parents, Barbara & Mark, and the Ladd family are delighted. All the best!!
- Bravo to George Beno on being accepted to St. Mary's College Prep High School in Manhasset. He will start there in September. His parents, Beti & Izzi Tsamblakos, brother John, family & friends are all very proud of him. George has a very bright future ahead.
- Tina & Bill Peters had a great time celebrating New Year's Eve in Interlaken, Switzerland with their daughter Alexis, son-in-law Stefan, and grand-daughters Skyler & Sophia. They rang bells and watched fireworks. They also celebrated Sophia's 5th birthday while they were there (which she shares with her Uncle Billy) with a great party.

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

KENDI SHQIP (The Albanian Corner)-from Page 2

Para së gjithash, duket qartë që Perëndia është dashuri dhe në tërë veprimet e Saj në drejtim të Botës, Perëndia At', shpreh natyrën si Dashuri, nëpërmjet Krishtit dhe Shpirtit të Shenjtë:

" Të dashur njerëz, le të duam njeri tjetrin; sepse dashuria është nga Perëndia; dhe kushdo që njih dashurinë ka lindur prej Perëndisë dhe e njih Perëndinë. Ai që nuk ka dashuri, nuk e njih Perëndinë, sepse Perëndia është dashuri. Në këtë formë çfaqet dashuria e Perëndisë për ne, se Perëndia dërgoi ne botë Birin e Tij të Vetlindur, që ne të rrojmë me ndihmën e Tij. Në këtë është dashuria, jo sepse ne e deshëm Perëndinë, por sepse Ajo na deshi ne dhe dërgoi Birin e tij tek ne për të shlyer fajet tona.

" Dashuria e Perëndisë është derdhur në zemrat tona me anë të Shpirtit të Shenjtë që na është dhënë. Këto attribute të hirshme të Perëndisë përmenden në Psalmet e Kishës. " Beko Zotin o shpirti im, dhe mos harro tërë mirësitë e tij. Atë që fal gjithë paudhësite e tua, atë që shëron gjithë sëmundjet e tua... Zoti është i dhëmbshur, zemërgjerë dhe më

This Month's Feast Days



The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple - commemorated on February 2nd

Forty days after His birth the Christ-Child was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which

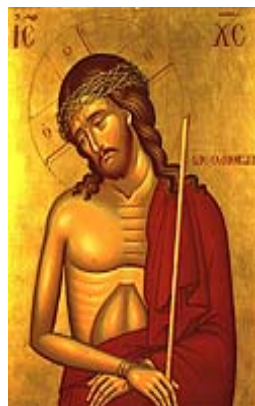
Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

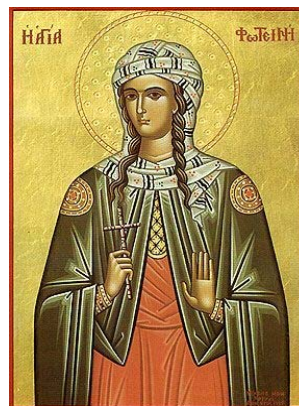
MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN FEBRUARY



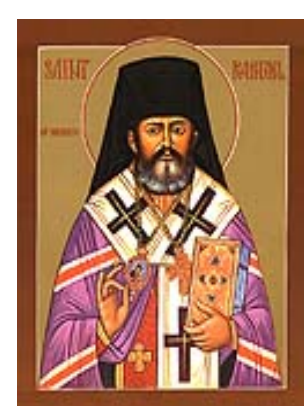
St. Cyril, the Equal-To-the-Apostles
February 14



First Day of Great Lent
February 15



St. Photini, the Samaritan Woman
February 26



St. Raphael, the Bishop of Brooklyn
February 27

Major Church Activities and Events

- Mon, Feb 01: Meeting of Our Lord, Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Sat, Feb 06: Memorial Saturday, Divine Liturgy, 10 am
- Sun, Feb 07: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Mon, Feb 08: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sat, Feb 13: St. Valentine's Day Dance, 7 p.m.
- Sun, Feb 14: Forgiveness Sunday, Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m., Prayers for the beginning of Great Lent following Liturgy
- Wed, Feb 17: Presanctified Liturgy, 7 p.m. Adult Study Adult Study Group
- Sun, Feb 21: Sunday of Orthodoxy, Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM; Parish General Meeting after Liturgy; Pan-Orthodox Vespers time and location TBA
- Wed, Feb 24: Presanctified Liturgy, 7 p.m. Adult Study
- Sun, Feb 28: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

- Feb 07: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- Feb 14: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka
- Feb 21: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos
- Feb 28: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- Mar 07: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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