

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

By Father Andrew Jarmus

The Story of a Saintly Family

On January 1, we celebrate the memory of our great father of the Church, St. Basil the Great. St. Basil the Great is honored as one of the greatest bishops and teachers in the Orthodox Church. One of the most important ideas that he taught was that it is not enough just to say we follow Jesus, we have to show that we follow Him through our actions. Because of St. Basil's influence, the first-ever hospitals, orphanages, shelters for people who were abused, abandoned or homeless where built under the sponsorship of the Church.

There is a "back story" to St. Basil's life. He was actually one of a whole string of saints in his family. Here are the other members of St. Basil's family who the Church glorifies as saints, heroes of the faith: St. Basil's grandmother, St. Macrina the Elder, was alive when the Church was still being persecuted. Her father died a martyr's death, and she

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herself suffered much for her Christian beliefs.

St. Basil's parents, St. Basil the Elder and St. Emelia were a very devout couple, and the love of Christ filled their house. They had ten children and five of them are honored as Saints.

St. Basil's brother, St. Gregory of Nyssa, is honored as another holy bishop and great teacher of the Orthodox Faith. In his time, there were those who were trying to change the true beliefs of the Church. Because St. Gregory

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President's Message

By Bill Peters

Happy New Year!!!! Hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the New Year. At the start of a new year, we often make resolutions; that is, we identify things we feel we should do to improve ourselves and our family's well being.

When we look at the new year from the viewpoint of St. Nicholas Church, we see many opportunities to improve ourselves and our family. Many of these things are very basic - attend Sunday Liturgy more often, bring our children to Sunday School almost every Sunday, increase our understanding of the Orthodox faith and be good to others and the Church. At the beginning of this year, we will have the blessing of an expanded Church building - new classrooms for the Sunday School children, a larger Fellowship Hall for Parishioner activities, an elevator and many other building improvements.

It is important to all Parishioners and the Church as a whole that we properly care for these building facilities and use them to further serve our Community, both religiously and socially.

In many ways, that means we need our family members to become more active in the life of the Church and to encourage friends to get more involved in the Church. Periodically, bring a friend to Church!!! St. Nicholas Church now has the capability to serve twice as many families than we have currently. We have a dedicated Priest and a Deacon. We have a very large Community and we should all try to get more people involved. We should encourage our adult children with families of their own to get more involved. We need everyone's help to make our Church grow!!!

For those of us who are currently active Parishioners, don't forget to:

- Come to Liturgy often
- Commit to bringing the Children to Sunday School
- Participate in Church activities
- Make your best Pledge possible and return your Card soon
- Attend the January Icon Presentation, it's a big fundraiser
- Support the Fundraising for the Building Expansion Project by making a donation and encouraging friends and relatives to make donations

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!!!!

Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

We hope you and your family had a blessed Christmas and an enjoyable New Year's Eve celebration. Now the year begins anew with the chance to start and make things better, make things right, make some changes you've had on your mind, start something new, attack that project you've been putting off, take better care of your health, reach out to others more....and the list is endless, but worth some thought.

This is the first time in our history that our annual Christmas Pageant and Pancake Breakfast were cancelled. Our many thanks to all those that kept everything in motion and remained on stand-by til the last minute when the blizzard closed us down.

We wish you all a very Happy & Healthy New Year. We pray for better days for all the world.

Trivia:

Men can read smaller print better than women can; women can hear better.

The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 years old and lived in China in 1910.

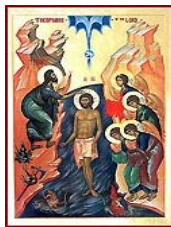
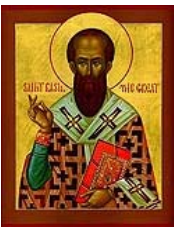
"I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.

The youngest pope was 11 years old.

ICON PRESENTATION

Sunday, January 10th - After Liturgy



*Come and Bid in the Presentation
or Make a Donation
in Honor of Your Favorite ICONS*

**Bring in your Icons from last year's Icon
Auction, as soon as possible!!!**

**We need them to prepare for
the next Icon Auction.**

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



By A. Llupa

Janar, 2010

Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë nga "Zbulesa" e kapitullit të parë "Burimet e Doktrines së Krishterë" nga vëllimi i parë "Doktrina" i Tomas Hopko.

...Titulli i parë që iu dha Jezusit nga populli, është titulli RABAI, që do të thotë MËSUES. Pasuesit e Tij u quajtën dishepuj, që do të thotë NXËNËS.

Pikësëpari, Jezusi erdhi tek njerzit si Mësuesi i dërguar nga Perëndia. Ai u mëson atyre vullnetin e Perëndisë dhe e bën Perëndinë të njohur tek ata.

Ardhja e Jezusit si mësues është një aspektet i të qënurit të tij Krisht, Mesia. Fjala KRISHT është përkthimi në greqisht i fjalës hebraike MESIA, që do të thotë I Lyeri i Perëndisë. Ishte parathënë, se kur të vijë Mesia, njerzit "do të mësoheshin nga Perëndia"(Isaia 54:13; John 6:45).

Jezusi erdhi tek njerzit si mësuesi hyjnor. Ai thotë në shumë raste, që fjalët e tij janë të Perëndisë. Ai foli si "një që ka autoritet", jo si mësuesit e zakonshëm hebrej. Ai akuzon ata që nuk pranojnë mësimin e tij, sikur nuk pranojnë Perëndinë vetë.

..Ai që beson tek une, nuk me beson mua, por atë që më dërgoi mua. Edhe ai që më sheh, sheh atë që më dërgoi. Kam ardhur si drita për botën... sepse nuk fola prej vetes, por Ati që më dërgoi më dha porosi çfarë të them. Ajo që them është ajo që Ati më ka udhëzuar.(Xhon 12:44-50)

Jezusi i mësoi njerzit, jo vetëm me fjalët e Tij, por me veprat e Tij; dhe për më tepër me vetë personin e Tij. Ai thotë, se Ai është e Vërteta dhe Drita. Ai e tregon veten e Tij, jo vetëm që flet para Perëndisë, por që ai vetë është FJALA e GJALLË e PERËNDISË në mish njerëzor, LOGOS (fjala) që është i përjetshëm dhe i pakrijuar, por që u bë njeri si Jezusi i Nazaretit për ta bërë Perëndinë të njohur në botë.

Kendi Shqip is continued on Page 4

PASTOR’S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

defended the true teachings, his enemies convinced the Emperor to send St. Gregory into exile. Many of St. Gregory’s writings explain how deeply God loves us and how much we need to have God’s love in our lives.

St. Macrina the Younger, St. Basil’s sister, was a very devout Christian. As a young woman, she was engaged to be married, but her fiancé died, and she then dedicated her life to serving God. After her father died, St. Macrina convinced her mother that they should enter the monastic life. They, along with some of their servants, lived as nuns, praying and serving God. St. Macrina had a very good education in the Orthodox Faith; it is said that many of the ideas taught by her brother St. Gregory were inspired by conversations that he had with his sister, Macrina.

St. Basil himself ordained his brother, St. Peter of Sebaste, into the priesthood. Later, St. Peter became bishop of Sebaste, a city in Armenia. St. Peter was one of the bishops who took part in the Second Ecumenical Council that composed the final articles of the Creed concerning the Holy Spirit and the Church.

Another of St. Basil’s sisters, St. Theosebia, was a deaconess in the Church. She served God by taking care of the needy and the infirm, and by teaching the Faith to women who were preparing to be baptised. When her brother St. Gregory was sent into exile, St. Theosebia went with him and shared in his struggles, so that he did not have to endure them alone.

The life of this sacred family reminds us how important our loved ones are in our lives, and how important we are to them. Family members should be able to turn to each other for support, encouragement, unconditional love. These things are important in all cases but they are of utmost importance in Christian families, as there are so many things in the world around us to distract us from the faith, to draw our attention away from Christ.

As we begin a New Year, let each of us thank God for the blessing of our families and other loved-ones in our lives. Let us be a source of spiritual strength for them and they for us. In this way, we take our places in our wider family, the family of the Church, whose holy fathers and mothers -- the saints -- remind us of our high calling and encourage each of us to imitate them.

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year.
See you in church.
Blessings, +Andrew

CORRECTION: The St. Nicholas Christmas Card

Thanks to all that participated in our Parish Christmas Card.

A mistake was made by printing last year’s message and priest. The name of Fr. Andrew Jarmus, our Priest, should have been printed. Sorry!

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY

- 1 Colossians 2:8-12, Luke 2:20-21, 40-52
- 2 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Matthew 3:1-11
- 3 2 Timothy 4:5-8, Mark 1:1-8
- 4 Hebrews 12:25-26; 13:22-25, Mark 10:2-12
- 5 1 Corinthians 9:19-27, Luke 3:1-18
- 6 Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7, Matthew 3:13-17
- 7 James 1:19-27, Mark 10:17-27
- 8 James 2:1-13, Mark 10:23-32
- 9 Ephesians 6:10-17, Matthew 4:1-11
- 10 Ephesians 4:7-13, Matthew 4:12-17
- 11 James 2:14-26, Mark 10:46-52
- 12 James 3:1-10, Mark 11:11-23
- 13 James 3:11-4:6, Mark 11:23-26
- 14 James 4:7-5:9, Mark 11:27-33
- 15 1 Peter 1:1-2,10-12,2:6-10, Mark 12:1-12
- 16 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23, Luke 17:3-10
- 17 1 Timothy 4:9-15, Luke 19:1-10
- 18 1 Peter 2:21-3:9, Mark 12:13-17
- 19 1 Peter 3:10-22, Mark 12:18-27
- 20 1 Peter 4:1-11, Mark 12:28-37
- 21 1 Peter 4:12-5:5, Mark 12:38-44
- 22 2 Peter 1:1-10, Mark 13:1-8
- 23 2 Timothy 2:11-19, Luke 18:2-8
- 24 2 Timothy 3:10-15, Luke 18:10-14
- 25 2 Peter 1:20-2:9, Mark 13:9-13
- 26 2 Peter 2:9-22, Mark 13:14-23
- 27 2 Peter 3:1-18, Mark 13:24-31
- 28 1 John 1:8-2:6, Mark 13:31-14:2
- 29 1 John 2:7-17, Mark 14:3-9
- 30 Hebrews 13:7-16, Matthew 5:14-19
- 31 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Luke 15:11-32

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.

Pledging is Stewardship -- PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY

Building Expansion Continues – Interior Work Progresses.....



Progress Continues!!! The Foundation, the Concrete Roof and Walls have been completed. Interior work continues with the Elevator Shaft construction and the building of the new Rooms in the Fellowship Hall. See more Photos on the Church's website, www.stnicholasalbanian.org. On the homepage, click the "Construction Progress" box at the lower right corner. **Your help to pay for the Building Project is very much needed. Please make your donation, soon!!!**

St. Nicholas Day Celebration



On Sunday, December 6th, Parishioners attended services and a fancy brunch provided by the Daughters' in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our Church's Feast Day.



Albanian Flag Day Diten E Flamurit

On Saturday, November 28th, at the Church Hall, Parishioners celebrated Flag Day and Albania's Independence.

Music, dancing and food were excellent. All had a great time!

Many thanks to Tomi Beno, Them Mertiri and Betti Beno Tsamblakos for their work in making the Party possible.

KENDI SHQIP (The Albanian Corner)–from Page 2

Në fillim ishte Fjala (LOGOS) dhe Fjala ishte me Perëndinë, edhe Fjala ishte Perëndia. Ajo ishte që në fillim me Perëndinë. Të gjitha u bënë me anë të saj, edhe pa Atë, nuk u bë asgjë që është bërë. Në Atë ishte jete dhe jeta ishte drita e njerzve. Edhe drita ndrit në errësirë, edhe errësira nuk e kuptoi. Ishte drita e vërtetë, që ndrit çdo njeri kur vjen në botë. Ishte në botë dhe bota u bë nga Ai, por bota nuk e njohu. Edhe fjala u bë mish dhe ndenji ndër ne (dhe pamë lavdinë e Tij, lavdi porsi të vetëmlinduri nga Ati), plot me hir e me të vërtetë. Edhe të gjithë ne morëm prej të mbushurit të atij, edhe hir mbi hir. Sepse ligji u dha me anë të Moisiut, por hiri dhe e verteta me anë të Jezu Krishtit. Asnjë kurrë s'e ka parë Perëndinë, vec i Vetëmlinduri Bir, që është në gji të Atit. Ai na e tregoi.

...Në këtë mënyrë, të krishterët i shikonin disa filozofë grekë të antikitetit si të ndriçuar nga Perëndia, për t'i shërbyer çështjes së të Vërtetës dhe për t'i udhëhequr njerzit drejt plotësisë së jetës në Perëndinë, meqënëse Fjala dhe Dituria e Perëndisë është zbuluar tek tërë njerzit dhe gjendet në tërë ata, të cilët në pastertinë e mendjes dhe zemrës së tyre kanë qënë frymëzuar nga Drita Hyjnore, e cila ndriçon çdo njeri që vjen në botë. Kjo Dritë Hyjnore është Fjala e Perëndisë, Jezuesi i Nazaretit si njeri, përsosja dhe përmbushja e vetëzbulesës së Perëndisë në botë.

Duhet theksuar gjithashtu se zbulesa hyjnore në Dhjatën e Vjetër, në Kishën e Dhjatës së Re, në jetët e shenjtorëve, në diturinë e etërve, në bukurinë e krijimit ...dhe me e plotë dhe më e përsosur në Jezu Krishtin, Birin e Perëndisë, është zbulesa e Vetë Perëndisë. Perëndia ka folur. Perëndia ka vepruar. Perëndia e ka shfaqur Vetveten dhe vazhdon ta shfaqë në jetën e popullit të Tij.

Nëse duam të dëgjojmë zërin e Perëndisë dhe të shohim veprat e vetëzbulesës së Perëndisë në botë, në duhet të pastrojmë mendjet dhe zemrat tona nga çdo gjë që është e keqe dhe e rremë. Ne duhet të përipiqemi të duam të vërtetën, të duam njeri tjetrin dhe të duam gjithshka në krijimin e mirë të Perëndisë. Sipas Besimit Orthodoks, pastrimi prej mekatit dhe gënjeshtërisë është rruga për të njohur Perëndinë. Nëse ne e hapim vetveten ndaj Hirit Hyjnor dhe e pastrojmë vetveten prej çdo gjëje të ligë, atëherë është e sigurt që ne do të jemi të aftë ta kuptojmë drejt Shkrimin dhe të arrijmë një kungim të gjallë me Perëndinë e Gjallë dhe të Vërtetë, që e ka zbuluar Vetveten dhe vazhdon ta zbulojë tek ata që e duan Atë...



This Month's Feast Days

The Circumcision (Naming) of Our Lord Commemorated on January 01

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law.

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Col. 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century.

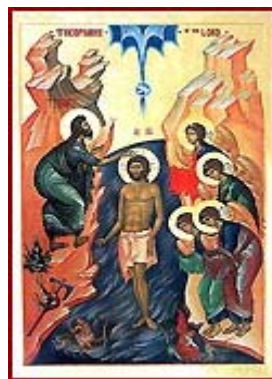
In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Mt.1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.



St. Basil the Great
January 01



Virgin Martyr Genevieve
January 03



Theophany – Baptism of Our Lord
January 06



Saints Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria
January 18



Three Hierarchs - St. Basil the Great; St. Gregory the Theologian; St. John Chrysostom –
January 30

Major Church Activities and Events

- Fri, Jan 01: Naming of Our Lord / St. Basil the Great, Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Jan 03: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m. Church School Classes resume
- Tues, Jan 05: Theophany Eve, Vesperal Divine Liturgy And Blessing of Water, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Jan 07: Home Blessings begin
- Sun, Jan 10: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m., followed by Icon Presentation
- Wed, Jan 13: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sun, Jan 17: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Jan 24: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Jan 31: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- HOUSE BLESSINGS will take place from January 7 to February 1

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

- Jan 03: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- Jan 10: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
- Jan 17: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- Jan 24: Damian Peters / Steven Foundos
- Jan 31: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- Feb 07: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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