

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

There is one sin that condemns. If we have even an inkling of Christian knowledge, we know that Christ's mercy is sufficient for us. Every crime, serious or petty, disappears in the abyss that is His love and care. Every act or word we could not take back, every episode that inspires in us a longing for that fantasy of a time machine, every known and secret pang of recollection in which we just wish we could unharmed, unbreak, and undo, all are forgiven. All past sins, all future, all are as nothing beside the acts of our God who would and did step down to save us. But there is one sin that yet condemns.

It is summer now, and those with gardens have begun to reap the reward of their efforts. They have invested hours or days in planting and watering, fertilizing and weeding. Choosing their beds and soil carefully, they have sown with knowledge. Each day, the plants grow, turning their leaves to the light. Facing the

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sun, they thicken luxuriant and fruitful. Ask a gardener the fate of those plants that, by some perversity, will not draw themselves upward to bask in the rays of the sun. They can name none but the shriveled and dead. Plants will not thrive, they will not survive, except that they chart the course of the sun in their movement, making its path their own, ripening in warmth and light. Refusal to nod their leaves toward the sun's arc is their death. Indifference is ours.

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President's Message

by Bill Peters

Well, we are half way through the Summer and there is still plenty more vacation fun to be enjoyed.

As mentioned in last month's Orthodox Post, planning is underway for activities occurring in the Fall. Most important among these activities is our Church School which includes Sunday School for the religious education of our children and Albanian Class to help children learn and improve their Albanian language skills. A very important part of this effort is having individuals volunteer as Teachers. Teachers are needed!!! To qualify, all you need to have is a desire and commitment to help the children. Training and materials

will be provided. Parents of Church School children should seriously consider becoming a Teacher to insure that their children are taught their religion and culture.

*Volunteer for an individual teaching position
or to share the teaching position with another
Teacher!!!*

Also, September hosts a major Church activity and fundraiser critical to our ability to pay for Church operations - our **Annual Golf Outing**. It is important to participate in this event and to help get sponsors to advertise which brings in a lot of money for the Church. See the ad on page 3 for more information.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer. See you at Church!!!

Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

An informal meeting will be held one Sunday in August as a preview of an official September meeting. Flea Market? or no Flea Market? that is the one of the questions. We need some fresh fund raising ideas. How about a talent show? How about a family game nite? How about a bingo nite? How about a day trip? Please step forward with your ideas and your energy. And, what about elections??? I cannot be President indefinitely!

To have the honor of hosting a Coffee Fellowship after Sunday Liturgy, please contact Christina Liolin. It is a wonderful practice that we have going that is enjoyed by everyone in our community. It is not a huge commitment to participate in the program. Also, if you are willing and able to make a "meshe" periodically or for a special day, please let Fr. Nathan know.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. We look forward to hearing about all the great adventures experienced by our travelers. Don't forget to stay hydrated with all this oppressive heat.

Church School Sunday School & Albanian Class Needs your Help!!!!



Teachers are needed for September Classes.
Please Volunteer to Serve.
The Children Need You!!!
Contact Fr. Nathan, Now.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Gusht, 2011

Misteri i Trinitetit të Shenjtë

Ne besojmë në një Zot, i cili ekziston në tre qënje: Ati, Biri dhe Shpirti i Shenjtë. Ky fakt është në themel të besimit Orthodoks. Kur jemi të vegjël, e pranojmë këtë fakt me besim. Megjithatë, kur rritemi, koncepti "3 në 1" na duket konfuz dhe i pakuptueshëm.

Shën Sirili, Aposulli i famshëm sllav, u përpoq t'a spjegonte konceptin e Trinitetit të Shenjtë, në këtë mënyrë: "E shihni djellin në qiell dhe se si nga ai, merret drita dhe pastaj, nga kjo, ngrohtesia fillon? Zoti At është si djelli, pa fillim apo mbarim. Nga Ai eksiston Zoti i Biri, si drita nga djelli. Ashtu sic merret ngrohtësia bashkë me dritën nga djelli, ashtu lind dhe Shpirti i Shenjtë. Secili nga ata ka ndryshim. Nuk ka tre diej në qiell, por vetëm një. E njëjta ndodh me Trinitetin e Shenjtë: ka tre natyra në Zotin, por Zoti është një dhe i pandarë.

Kisha Orthodokse na mëson se të tre "natyrat" e Zotit, kanë të njëjtën rëndësi shenjtore. Vetëm se Zoti At nuk vjen nga askush tjetër. Zoti Bir vjen nga Zoti At dhe Fryma e Shenjte vjen nga Ati. Të Tre natyrat e Zotit qëndrojnë të lidhura me dashuri me njëra tjetrën dhe përbëjnë një Qënje. Akoma jeni konfuz? Ndoshta fjalët e Agustinit të Bekuar, Atit të madh të kishës së perëndimit, do të na ndihmojnë: "Do ta kuptoni Trinitetin në se do përdorni dashurinë. Është e vërtetë se mund t'a kthjellojmë misterin e Trinitetit po të përdorim zemrën në vend të mendjes.

KENDI SHQIP

Continued from Page 2

“Skenderbeu” nga Henri Uodsuoth Longfellou Perkthyer nga “FAN NOLI”

...Nga kështjella shpejt ka rënë
 Flamuri me gjysmë-hënë
 Edhe populli shikon
 Që në vënt të tij valon
 Flamur'i Skenderit n'ërë
 Shkab' e Zezë me dy krerë
 Dhe një thirrje lart u ngrit
 Se çdo zemër e çdo shpirt
 U mërzit nga Turku i lik,
 Që e beri atë Krujë
 Zi, murtajë dhe rrëmujë.
 Ay zë me gas me bujë
 Q'oshëtin nga brek në brek
 Është: “Rrofsh, o Skënderbeg!”

Ja kështu Skënderi trim
 Mori Krujën me rrëmbim;
 Edhe lajma u përhap
 Si nje flagë, si një zjarr
 Që fryn era në behar
 Dhe qytetet afër lark,
 Thotë Isa Ben Miri
 Në Qitap të tij fakiri
 “Binin m'atë lehtësi
 Që zë burri veshn' e tij.”



COME AND PLAY

Monday, September 26, 2011

14th ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING



Remember last year's Golf Outing? 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 26, 2011** when we will be holding our **14th 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 at 11 a.m. in the morning and tee-off at 12:30 p.m. 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 wishing to hit the Hole-in-One and win a BMW. After a beautiful round of golf, we proceed to 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. 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 Lou or Al.

The Golf Committee: Phil Foundos and Tomi Beno: Co-Chairmen
 Mark Papalexis, Al Foundos, Lou Foundos, Jim Liolin and Roland Llupa

Pastor's Message

Continued from Page 1

Because God loves us and respects us, He will not intrude into our lives in a way that takes away our choices. He could, but He will not. Rather, He permits us our will, endowing us with the faculty of choice, trusting us with hope that we will employ this properly. Like a gardener, he sets us in fertile soil, but we, unlike plants, are free to walk away and find a shadier patch of land. He is both sun and master horticulturalist; we, His work and joy, His own creation. Our indifference condemns us not because God is wrathful but because He will not compel us to chart our lives by the light of His glory. God will not force us into heaven when we have made it clear that we prefer outer darkness.

Our indifference is not lack of knowledge or lack of education. Indifference is the very activity of pride. It is the vice of pride in action. When we are indifferent, our actions speak for us, saying: "This moment, this situation, these things, are not yours, God! I do not want You here." With such neglect, we turn, we wither, we die. It is for this reason that Christians are asked to learn the practice of prayer, that which is nothing more than the exercise of memory. We remember that God is with us and attempt to live in such a manner as is consistent with this fact—fasting, praying, coming to Church that we may learn to cherish this memory. Enshrining Christ in our memory at every hour and moment is our means of combating pride's indifference.

As children, we were told that God sees us when we do bad things. As adults grown strong at excusing and justifying ourselves, we disbelieve or think that our "bad things" are for a good cause, a good reason. In so doing, we disinvite Christ from our lives, seeking the shade where His light does not so brightly burn. But we cannot expel God, so we just turn our backs and begin to walk towards hell, hoping not to find Him there. This is the sin that condemns—willful forgetfulness of God.

In August, we remember the first saint of North America, Blessed Herman of Alaska. He has left us few words but, in these few, a treasury against this one, grave sin. "From this day, from this hour, from this moment, let us love God above all else." May his prayer protect us.

COMMUNITY NEWS Please contact Linda Foundos, ggsutter@aol.com or 516-671-8071, with any news to share.....birth, special anniversary, vacation, major accomplishment or academic honor, new house, new job, etc,

Community News

by Linda Foundos

- Kudos to Kimberly Oswald who graduated from South Side High School in Rockville Center. Kim was awarded an academic scholarship to the University of Maryland which she will attend in the fall. Her parents, Donna & Jim, her brothers Daniel & Alex as well as the rest of the family are very proud of Kim. Kim has been an exceptional student as well as becoming a fine dancer, working part time and helping out at home. You go Girl!
- Britu Haile travelled to Ital to visit with her brother, Teklehaimanot, who is recovering from an accident. We wish Britu a safe journey and well wishes for her brother.
- Joanne Heiser enjoyed a fabulous trip to Bermuda.
- Happy "Sweet 16" to Angela Mile who is absolutely the sweetest! We love you Angela!
- Our best wishes to Albert Foundos and Joan Robinson on their recent marriage at St. Vladimir's Seminary. We wish them much happiness as they make their new life together.
- We send get well wishes across the ocean to Switzerland to the grand-daughter of Tina & Bill Peters, Skyler Heuser. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alexis, Stefan, Skyler and Sophia.
- Irma, Ardian, Iris & Angela Mile, and Xhuljana, Stefan & Vaska Baltadori had a fabulous time in Cancun, Mexico. Talk about fun in the sun, great family bonding and making wonderful memories! The highlight this time was swimming with the dolphins! It was a most amazing experience!
- Our deepest condolences to the Liolin/Liberta family on the passing of Nona Anna Liberta, the mother of Christina Liolin. Anna fell asleep in the Lord just weeks after Mario, her husband of 69 years. They were a special pair from beginning to end. The love in their family they leave behind speaks volumes of the kind of people Anna & Mario were. They instilled in their family so much wisdom, practicality and zest for life. May their memory be eternal.
- Sincere sympathy to the extended Papalexis/Valauri & McCormick families on the passing of Judge Tim McCormick, the husband of Kay (Valauri) McCormick, the first cousin of Tina Peters, Mark Papalexis & Betty Kelapire. Tim who was a very fine man, was loved by many will be greatly missed. May his memory be eternal.



The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary – Commemorated on August 15.

The circumstances of the Dormition of the Mother of God were known in the Orthodox Church from apostolic times. At the time of Her blessed Falling Asleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was again at Jerusalem. Her fame as the Mother of God had already spread throughout the land and had aroused many of the envious and the spiteful against Her. They wanted to make attempts on Her life; but God preserved Her from enemies. Day and night She spent her time in prayer. The Most Holy Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord, and here She offered up fervent prayer. More than once, enemies of the Savior sought to hinder Her from visiting her holy place, and they asked the High Priest for a guard to watch over the Grave of the Lord. The Holy Virgin continued to pray right in front of them, yet unseen by anyone.

In one visit to Golgotha, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Her and announced Her approaching departure from this life to eternal life. In pledge of this, the Archangel gave Her a palm branch. With these heavenly tidings the Mother of God returned to Bethlehem with the three girls attending Her. She summoned Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples of the Lord, and told them of Her impending Repose.

The Most Holy Virgin prayed also that the Lord would have the Apostle John come to Her. The Holy Spirit transported him from Ephesus, setting him in that very place where the Mother of God lay. After the prayer, the Most Holy Virgin offered incense, and John heard a voice from Heaven, closing Her prayer with the word "Amen." The Mother of God took it that the voice meant the speedy arrival of the Apostles and the Disciples and the holy Bodiless Powers. The faithful, whose number by then was impossible to count, gathered together, says St John of Damascus, like clouds and eagles, to listen to the Mother of God. Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. St John the Theologian, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin's repose was at hand. Going in to the Mother of God, they beheld Her lying upon the bed, and filled with spiritual joy. The Disciples greeted Her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard Her prayer and fulfilled Her heart's desire, and She began speaking about Her imminent end. The Holy Spirit had gathered them all together so that they might be granted the blessing of the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and more fittingly to see to the burial of the Mother of the Lord. She called each of them to Herself by name, She blessed them and extolled them for their faith and the hardships they endured in preaching the Gospel of Christ. To each She wished eternal bliss, and prayed with them for the peace and welfare of the whole world.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN AUGUST



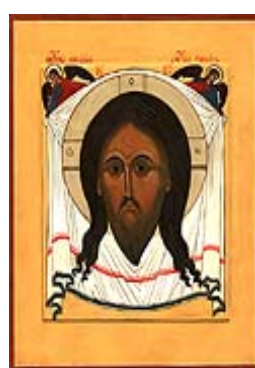
**Procession of the Cross
August 01**



**Transfiguration of The Cross
August 06**



**St. Herman of Alaska
August 09**



**Image – "Not-Made-By-Hands"
August 16**



**Beheading of St. John
August 29**

Major Church Activities and Events

Thurs, Aug 04: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 Sun, Aug 07: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Sun, Aug 14: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Sun, Aug 21: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Sun, Aug 28: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Sun, Sep 04: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Wed, Sep 07: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

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

Aug 07: Bill PETERS / Ilija LUKA
 Aug 14: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos
 Aug 21: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
 Aug 28: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
 Sept 04: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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Customer Name
 Street Address
 City, State Zip Code